China weekly Review

密勒氏評論報

Rural Production— Key to Reconstruction

"A NEW WOMAN"
. . . a story by Frank Chow

THE LESSON OF KOREA
. . . an editorial

FULL TEXT OF CHINA'S NEW AGRARIAN REFORM LAW ★ ★

JULY 15, 1950 **JMP 4,000**

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LETTERS From the People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of the China Weekly Review.

NEW POSTOFFICE

To the Editor:

Here are two stories which show how the postmen are now serving the people in the countryside.

Not long ago a postman of Wanchun in south Shansi went to a village to deliver a double registered letter. When he got to the addressee's home, he discovered an old woman sitting in the yard.

"Old Madame," he asked, "Is this Mr. Sun Kin Chun's home?"

"Yes," was her reply.
"What relation are you to Mr. Sun?"
"I am his mother."

Then the postman brought out the letter and said to her: "This is a double registered letter which was mailed by your son. Please receive it and put your seal on the receipt."

As soon as the old woman passed the seal to the postman, he finished the procedure very quickly.

"How much money do you want?" she inquired.
"Money?" He was greatly surprised. "Why do I want money?"

She answered, "In the old days under the control of Yen Hsi-shan, when the postmen came, we had to prepare both meals and money for them. If not they would refuse to give us the letters. Sometimes they became very angry. But now, since you won't take a meal, shouldn't I give you some money?"

"Oh, old Madame," he said. "In the past, most of the public functionaries were corrupt and covetous. They found many ways to exploit the people. At present our government and the Communist Party really serve the people. Dispatching of letters is the duty of postmen. We must not obtain any tip from anyone."

At Loyang postoffice, there is a postman named Chang Yung-chun. He runs the second rural mail route on which there are a Chü government, 27 hsiang governments and 64 primary schools. He suggested to the Chü government to call a mass meeting at which the cadres of the governments and the masters of the primary schools were invited. He told the meeting about how the postoffice was interested in getting new subscribers to newspapers and was promoting this work in the cities and countryside.

Through his efforts in interesting them, some 750 subscriptions were taken out.

S. C. CHANG

Kaifeng, Honan
July 1, 1950

US EMPIRE DAY?

To the Editor:

As an American, I feel it my duty to protest against the aggressive role that "my" government is now playing in world affairs and especially in Asia. Every American who sees the attempts made by the ruling cliques in the United States to knock together an empire, and who recalls the revolutionary birth of the United States as an independent nation, must feel the keen irony of history. A people who once fought to free themselves from imperial domination has today become a nation that attempts to impose an alien rule by force upon small nations who want freedom to run their own affairs.

On July 4th, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted a document known as the Declaration of Independence. This document, which may still be taught the children in the schools of America, states in clear terms the right of revolution and independence. Speaking of the unjust treatment accorded the American colonies by the government of Great Britain, the Declaration says, "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evidence a design to reduce them (men) under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security." The US government has forgotten these ringing words; if the Koreans or the Taiwanese or the Vietnamese want to govern themselves, it now appears the shoe is on the other foot. Uncle Sam, long since grown rich and reactionary, knows much better what is good for them.

Americans had better stop, think, and look around them, before it is too late. The struggle of the Chinese people for independence has been largely won, despite the vast aid given the Chiang clique by US reaction. The struggle of the other peoples of Asia for independence will also succeed; nothing will stop it, simply because the power of an aroused people is greater than any number of atom bombs. This was proved long ago by the American Revolution itself—not to mention more recent instances—when a ragged horde of starving, freezing soldiers under General Washington defeated the alien forces of the mighty British Empire. But would-be empire builders never seem to learn, as witness emperor-for-a-day Adolf Hitler.

All Americans must resolve to make it abundantly clear that they will not permit their rulers to draw them into armed adventures. There is great danger—to the world and to themselves—that America's militarists and cartelists will succeed in provoking another world conflict, which this time would unleash manifold destruction and agony upon their own heads as well as upon the peoples of the rest of the world. The world must have peace; progressive Americans must take the lead in rousing the whole people of the United States to an awareness of the danger of war and to the determination resolutely to prevent it.

WM. PAGET

Shanghai
July 4, 1950

POWERFUL WEAPONS

To the Editor:

China has now entered into a new era. In this era, it is required that things old should be replaced by things new, and that our thoughts have to be reformed too in order to enable us to gain progress and to become new men in New China. The method specifically recommended for such a purpose is "Criticism and Self-criticism," the weapon generally recognized as powerful enough to uncover our wrong doing and improper thinking, the existence of which would make us able to keep pace with the conditions under Communist guidance. But to use these weapons is not easy without a certain degree of courage and perfect understanding of Marx-Leninism.

Conservatives and diehards who faithfully stick to individualism and liberalism could never tolerate exposure of their secrets publicly, and at the same time, feel reluctant to provocate others in like manner. In their opinion, provocation of such magnitude would lead to a probable break of friendship built painstakingly. They also know from history that during the feudalistic reign, no one could criticize his rulers for fear of death to himself and his family. Therefore, faults were overlooked and at the same time evil-doers were encouraged to continue their practices without being discovered. As to self-criticism, regardless of whether it was done voluntarily or compulsorily, it was invariably looked upon as absurd. Only in the instance of a party being either a lunatic or in trouble was it necessary to submit a confession.

In the course of criticizing others, care should be taken to ensure that it is performed in the light of righteousness without partiality and not intended for revenge or undermining. Again rashness should be omitted, manner

(Continued on Page 126)

CHINA WEEKLY REVIEW

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Index July 15, 1950

NOTICE
Review To Close 110

Editorials
The Lesson of Korea 110
Public Health Drive 111

Special Articles
Rural Production is Key to Reconstruction 113
"A New Woman" 115
Wen I-to 118

Documents
Agrarian Reform Law 124

Features
Letters from the People . . 109
25 Years Ago 112
China Affairs 119
The Week's Business 120
Articles of Interest 121
International Affairs 122
English Lesson . . . Back Cover

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密勒氏評論報

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Vol. 118 Shanghai, Saturday, July 15, 1950 No. 7

REVIEW TO CLOSE

THE *Review* will cease publication with the issue of August 5, three weeks from today. We have postponed making a final decision for many months, but the financial drain which continued operation entails has become so great that we can no longer postpone the date for closure.

As our readers are aware, the question of whether we could carry on has been a major consideration for a long time. From a "dollars and cents" point of view, the *Review* should have been closed a long time ago. However, because we felt that the *Review* had come to serve a very useful purpose, we made every possible effort to continue publication. In the pre-liberation days, it was one of the few publications which managed to avoid KMT censorship and thus provided one of the few forums from which progressive Chinese could speak, not only to foreigners, but, to a considerable extent, to their own countrymen.

With the liberation the Chinese press was released from the KMT yoke and the *Review* naturally became less vital to its Chinese readers. In many ways, however, we believed that it was more important than ever to keep going since the *Review* was one of the very few publications in a position to give foreign readers, both here and abroad, an objective and fair picture of conditions and developments in the new China.

It is now a little more than a year since the liberation of Shanghai and almost a year since the establishment of China's new government. We hope that during this initial transition period the *Review* has made some contribution to an understanding in foreign circles of the many new developments in this country. If this has been accomplished, then the efforts of the past months have been justified.

In addition to the steady worsening of our already chronic financial difficulties, the post-liberation period brought new problems. The Kuomintang blockade and the consequent disruption of mail service hindered our distribution abroad. The disturbed conditions in many countries of Asia, along with currency restrictions preventing overseas remittances in a number of countries, have caused our foreign field of circulation to shrink considerably. Thus, in view of the overall situation—growing financial problems and a growing inability to reach as many people as before—we have reluctantly come to the conclusion that there is no alternative to closing.

We hope that readers will give us their support right up to the last issue. The staff will do its best to make these issues the best possible ones.

THE LESSON OF KOREA

IN the almost three weeks that have elapsed since Syngman Rhee launched his attack upon North Korea several important developments have taken place which should serve as lessons for all of us.

First, the course of fighting, which has seen the occupation of Syngman Rhee's capital city of Seoul and the liberation of approximately one-third of South Korea, shows clearly which army has the will to fight and which is supported by the people. Despite the optimistic communiques from the South, it is evident that the war is going very badly for Rhee and his American supporters.

While it has long been obvious that Syngman Rhee maintained power in South Korea only by virtue of American money and arms, the rapidity with which his government has collapsed has shown clearly the disaffection of the population. Throughout the area still left to him, guerilla activity is reported spreading as farmers, workers, students and others join the popular mass movement aimed at aiding the advance of the People's Army.

On the other hand, press dispatches from newly-liberated cities such as Seoul tell of people lining the streets to welcome the Northern troops, while civilian groups have organized squads to assist in transport, medical and other work for the advancing troops. In addition, the government of North Korea has already begun the job of social and economic reform in those areas so far liberated. For example, agrarian reform has been ordered for all South Korea. Syngman Rhee's oppressive taxes have been abolished and farmers from now on will be required to pay only the same low rate as is currently paid by farmers in the North.

* * *

ANOTHER thing which has been made clear is the overwhelming strength which the people possess when they are waging a fight for freedom from internal despotism and foreign interference. As Washington's ragged volunteers proved in the American Revolution, as the out-gunned and outmanned PLA proved in China and as the People's Army is proving today in Korea, the just will of the people when they rise against oppression cannot be denied.

That the passage of years and the modern developments in military science have not changed this basic fact is shown by the spectacle of Syngman Rhee's American-trained, American-equipped and American-advised army in full flight. The significance of the tide of battle is especially great in view of the active intervention

of American ground forces and US, British and Australian air and naval units.

* * *

AS an American newspaper, one of the saddest aspects of the whole tragic affair to us is the part being played by the United States. American bombs are today falling on hundreds and thousands of Korean civilians. What's more, American soldiers are killing Koreans and being killed by Koreans.

All of this, according to Truman, is being done in the name of defending "democracy." All we can say is that Truman is wrong. If he has read his own newspapers during the past few years, he can hardly fail to realize what a mockery it is to apply this term to the terroristic regime which American arms and money have maintained in South Korea since the end of the war with Japan.

These are indeed sad days for the United States. Long the champion of the oppressed and long the world's leading exponent of national self-determination, America has shifted course until today she has become the most powerful force for reaction throughout the world. In the grip of a carefully plotted anti-red hysteria, the American people are being stampeded into accepting a short-sighted policy of clasping the hands of any and all—including some of the world's worst scoundrels—who profess to be against communism. Butchers such as Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, British colonial administrators in Malaya and the Greek fascists are America's friends today, as are such puppet-like creatures as Bao Dai, Elpidio Quirino and Shigeru Yoshida.

Latest press dispatches report that the US government, alarmed by the unexpected turn of events in Korea, is planning more destruction for the Korean people and more suffering for the American people. MacArthur has called for US marines, the nation's toughest professional soldiers, while Washington has announced that more B-29 superfortresses are being dispatched so that the bombing of North Korea can be stepped up.

In the United States itself, the Senate was this week preparing to tackle the new budget of US$34,688,000,000, of which 77 percent represents military expenditure, either in paying off instalments on previous wars or on preparations for a future conflict. In addition, senators are reported ready to give immediate priority to Truman's expected request for additional military funds required because of the developments in Korea.

Despite the slaughter being prepared for the Korean people, we have no doubt but what they will eventually triumph, but, as was the case in the American Revolution and other historic struggles against tyranny, the cost will be great and victory will not be easily or quickly attained. However, nothing, we are firmly convinced, will prevent the Korean people from establishing the government they wish and deposing the foreign-installed government they detest.

* * *

EVENTUALLY the United States will have to answer for the actions of its government. Today the harvest is already being reaped in China where decades of American goodwill were dissipated almost overnight by Truman through his policy of aiding and abetting Chiang Kai-shek. Tomorrow's harvests will be equally, if not more, unpleasant for the American people and will be gathered in a number of countries in Asia and elsewhere.

Only a drastic change in America's internal and external policies can alter this. Since these policies have been set by the men who control America, tremendous popular pressure must be brought to bear against the government in order to effect a change. Progressive forces throughout the United States are already leading the fight against repression at home and adventurism abroad. All Americans who wish to live in prosperity at home and in peace with their foreign neighbors must join the struggle in order to avoid the dangers which present policies engender.

PUBLIC HEALTH DRIVE

NEVER before in Shanghai's history has the city been so health conscious. Although in past years we have had occasional anti-disease campaigns of one form or another, we have never before witnessed an overall, sustained, almost door-to-door drive against the various diseases and ailments which commonly afflict the city during the summer months.

In the old days local voluntary and charitable organizations did what they could and, from time to time, the KMT would proclaim "anti-cholera week" or "anti-typhoid week" during which the people were told to take "all necessary precautions." Upon such occasions a few public inoculation stations would be set up and the police would herd pedestrians and others into line. However, such campaigns were at best half-hearted and generally ineffective. Shanghailanders continued to sicken and die from various diseases which were in large measure preventable.

This year, however, the health drive has been of an entirely new character. Beginning in earnest with the campaign against cholera, government and private organizations have spent some three months in their efforts to remove the threat of this frequently fatal disease. For weeks prior to the actual launching of the inoculation program, a city-wide publicity campaign was carried on. Lectures, newspaper articles, radio programs and virtually all other methods of reaching the public were used. Causes of the disease, methods of prevention, etc. were discussed and explained at length. Finally after careful plans had been made, the inoculation work began. Scores of medical teams covered the city. Visits, scheduled in advance, were made to all large office and apartment buildings. Units set up shop on the sidewalks. Labor unions arranged visits so that workers could be inoculated at their factories. "Floating" stations toured the creeks and waterways surrounding the city. Even the trains entering and leaving Shanghai had units aboard. In all, some 3,000,000 people, or more than half the city's population, were inoculated against cholera by the teams officially participating in the drive.

Late last month the campaign against typhoid fever got under way. As was the case with the cholera drive, great advance publicity is being given, explaining the causes and effects and

methods of prevention. When the medical teams have been organized, when the city has been divided into districts and each team assigned an area, then the actual inoculation campaign will begin.

Another distinguishing characteristic of this season's health drive is its overall nature. In addition to inoculation campaigns, tied in with specific publicity about disease prevention, the whole subject of public health is also being covered. Part of the campaign has been an anti-fly drive, which has been conducted along two main lines: First, bringing home to the public the realization of the role played by flies in spreading disease through food contamination, and, second, a city-wide clean-up drive to destroy breeding places of flies.

Mammoth health exhibitions have been timed to coincide with the drive. During the second half of June a health exhibition for women and children was held at the Race Course. Posters, photographs and other illustrations of child and mother care drew thousands of visitors. This exhibit is now preparing to go on a road tour of nearby rural districts.

From July 6 to 11 a general health exhibit was held in the Race Course and in the old auditorium. This display, which covered various aspects of health, including public health, clinical studies in various fields, veterinary science, supply and manufacture of medicine, etc., is to be part of the National Health Exhibition which will open in Peking shortly.

While Shanghai, as the nation's most heavily populated and most crowded city, has seen the largest and most sustained health drive, other cities and rural districts throughout the country have also been carrying on campaigns against the major epidemic threats, as well as against dirt and disease in general.

Only late last month a special plague prevention team returned to Mukden after four months spent in stamping out a bubonic plague epidemic in the Liuchow Peninsula where plague has been endemic for the past 80 years. The story of this team's work is an indication of the extent of some of the problems facing the nation's public health workers and is also revealing in that it shows how and why public health campaigns can be carried out successfully today.

In addition to the actual work of giving injections, it was necessary to convince the people, most of whom are of the Li nationality who still live in tribal society, of the need for carrying out prevention work through getting rid of rats and lice.

When the white-coated medical workers first arrived and began work, many of the people ran away. The difficulty of explaining to them the benefit of inoculations and of the connection between lice-bearing rats and the plague was complicated by language difficulties. It was first necessary to translate the Northeast dialect of the medical workers into Cantonese and from Cantonese into the Li language.

Gradually, however, when they saw the medical personnel busily catching rats and stopping up rat holes, they became a little more convinced. Finally, their attitude changed completely when they saw that infected children, whom they thought doomed, were saved after being given inoculations. Before leaving, the team trained 1,000 Li people in anti-plague work.

* * *

THE importance of the health drive in Shanghai, as well as those in other parts of the country, is self-evident and needs no emphasis. However, it is worth nothing that this is the first time in the nation's history that a matter so vital to the people is actually being undertaken. Past regimes have talked of public health and, upon occasion, have drawn up ambitious plans or, sometimes, even made a few efforts to inaugurate work. However, all such efforts were generally failures. The reason for the past failure and the present success is one of the "secrets" of why China has a new government and why the new government is here to stay.

25 Years Ago in *The China Weekly Review*

Demonstrations in Wuchang

July 11, 1925

Big demonstrations have been planned for Hankow and Wuchang next Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, by the Diplomatic Association of Legal Organization of Hupeh. The parades would be devoted to arousing interest in the Shanghai and Hankow cases, while lecturing teams will assist by holding public lectures throughout the first day. The demonstrators will confine their activities to the Chinese city, being not allowed to enter the foreign concessions. The Association is also approaching the Hankow Bankers Association and other commercial organizations with a view to starting a general boycott against British bank notes and British goods.

Japanese Indiscretion Cause of Enmity

The following interesting account of the reactions of the Chinese in Manchuria to the disturbances in Shanghai, appeared in the June 17 issue of the Japanese owned and edited Manchuria Daily News:

"Some of the Japanese in Manchuria seem afraid of the Chinese students at Mukden, Kirin, Changchun, Yingkou, etc. catching the infection of the Central China disturbances. They appear prone to report all news smacking of such activity in an exaggerating manner. No fear is called for. . . .

"If any Chinese student should either be egged on to join in an anti-Japanese movement, or be forced to do so by threats, he or she should first consult his or her elders, who will certainly reason him or her out of any such rashness.

"Some Japanese in Manchuria, who have not a sufficient understanding of such a historic standing between the two people, are said to have the indiscretion to sow seeds of disorder among the Japanese and the Chinese. Such capable folly is to be strongly discountenanced . . ."

10 Years Ago in *The China Weekly Review*

Teachers and Students Face Difficulties

July 13, 1940

Another hardship staring both masters and students in the face is the lack of equipment and material, such as text-books, apparatus, stationery, and printing machines. The blockade of the Chinese seaports and the congestion of traffic on the Kunming-Haiphong route have delayed or nearly cut off the arrival of fresh supplies. Such quantities of writing materials as have filtered inland have advanced in price to exorbitant heights. Writing paper is now so scarce that a copy-book costs sixty or seventy cents, about six times its pre-war price. The use of glazed paper is a luxury to most of the schools and they have fallen back upon the native brown porous paper; but even the latter is becoming more expensive. Stencil paper and printing ink, too, are so high that the use of mimeographed sheets, except when absolutely necessary, is avoided by the schools.

From "Education's Role in the War Against a Fascist 'New Order'" by Yen Ying-lu

Rural Production Is Key to Reconstruction

As people turn to tasks of construction initial efforts are being made to increase rural production. Prosperous peasantry seen as prerequisite for nationwide progress.

NOW that the military phase of the liberation of the country is drawing to a close, the attention of the people and the government is turning more and more toward the next stage: economic reconstruction and construction.

In order to achieve complete liberation the people must be freed from the grinding poverty that is the lot of the vast majority, they must be freed from the grip of the old semi-feudal institutions, they must be freed from dependence upon the whims of nature. In short the people must become as complete masters of their own fate as present developments in science will allow.

Since some 80 percent of the population is estimated to be engaged in agriculture and since approximately 90 percent of the country's total production is made up of agricultural and handicraft products (only about 10 percent being industrial production), it is obvious that any plan for improvement of the overall economy must concentrate largely upon rural problems.

In addition, it must be noted that while the key to real progress is industrialization, rehabilitation and expansion of the rural economy is a prerequisite. It is in the rural areas that the markets for the products of the factories will be found and it is also the countryside which must, during the next few years, supply a substantial portion of the surplus capital for investment in industry.

Poverty of Farmers

One of the most striking facts about China in recent years has been the extreme poverty of the rural population. Year by year, especially since the outbreak of the war of resistance against Japan, the influence and the strength of the landlord-gentry interests grew. In area after area the number of small peasants who lost their land and became tenants, or even worse, farm laborers, increased measurably. As the strength of the landlords increased, even the middle and rich peasants felt the pressure. By the time of liberation the ranks of what might be called the agricultural middle class had been severely depleted. The overall tendency was for the landlords to grow more opulent, while the number of the landless increased.

Obviously, liberation of the countryside removed or reduced many of these and other age-old evils. The driving away of the KMT troops and officialdom has abolished the physical basis of the old ruling classes' power. Considerable immediate improvement in the average peasant's condition may be expected from the campaigns for rent reduction and, later, redistribution of the land. Since rents and taxes in some cases ran to as high as 90 percent of the crop and were scarcely ever below 50 percent, it is easy to see the benefits which land reform and the institution of a just and equitable system of taxation will bring to the peasantry.

However, there are many problems which cannot be immediately resolved. Years of oppression by landlords and squeezing by officials have reduced the mass of the peasants to a state of extreme poverty and, in many cases, despair. Land has been run down, livestock and implements have been depleted and cannot be quickly replaced, crop strains have deteriorated. Generally speaking, the last decade and a half have witnessed wholesale inroads into the countryside's capital so that today the peasants have little or no means of making the capital investment which must be made if there is to be an immediate, substantial increase of rural production.

While some capital can be obtained in the countryside, the total is relatively small and not nearly sufficient to meet the demand. The middle and rich peasants are capable of financing or partially financing their own immediate investment needs, but this "middle class" has also suffered from the depredations of the landlord-militarist-official triumvirate which for so long milked the countryside.

Even the landlords, who have been growing wealthier and wealthier during the past years, cannot supply all the necessary capital. Because of their feudalistic outlook, practically none invested their wealth in a fashion designed to improve or expand rural economy. Mainly, they invested in more land. The distribution of this land among its former owners, while restoring to the latter their original capital investment, still leaves them without the necessary development funds. Many landlords, of course, have relatively extensive herds of livestock. The redistribution of these animals will provide the peasants with a measure of working capital. However, as there is an overall shortage of farm animals, this will not solve the problem.

Capital from City

In view of the general shortage of capital in the countryside itself, it is obvious that the bulk of the needed development funds, if they are to be obtained at all, must come from the cities. However, investment in rural areas is a new idea to city financiers. Also, the many changes which have taken place in the urban areas since liberation have altered the old patterns of the capital market and it is only now that a favorable climate for rural investment is developing.

So long as inflation was a factor, it was well-nigh impossible to attract money from the city, since capital was almost exclusively absorbed by speculation and hoarding which constituted about the only really profitable or "safe" outlets for surplus funds. Cheap, long-range loans, especially for borrowers removed from the immediate sight of the lenders, were out of the question.

Thus, immediately following liberation the job of extending loans to the countryside fell almost entirely upon the government banks and other state agencies. A number of loans were granted by these institutions of farmers in the suburbs of the country's major cities, such as Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai and elsewhere.

During the past several months, however, changes in the economy of the cities have made it possible for private capital to enter the field. With the expulsion of the KMT, many of the old attractions for idle funds began to disappear or shrink. When the KMT packed up and departed, it took with it a whole host of debauched officials and their hangers-on. The luxury trades fell on hard times and no longer held their old attraction for investment capital. Expensive restaurants, dance halls, jewelry stores, etc. ceased to be prosperous, expanding institutions.

As prices were stabilized, hoarding and speculating in the commodity and foreign exchange markets became less and less attractive and, finally, became decidedly unattractive. Gradually, more and more private banks became convinced of the necessity and the profitability of following the lead of the government institutions and began to enter the rural investment field.

Loans from Banks

For instance, this past spring several joint loan companies were formed by private Shanghai banks for issuing loans to nearby rural areas. One of these, a syndicate formed by 18 local banks extended credits for the purchase of 50 tons of fertilizer and other necessities to three small villages along the railway near Shanghai.

In undertaking this new type business, the banks found that they had a lot to learn about their new clients. One of the first "problems" facing them was that the general cultural and educational level of the peasants was comparatively low. They did not understand the complex banking procedures and were puzzled by the many forms, the need for duplicate copies, etc.

The representatives of the banks also found that their own knowledge of farming problems and practices was virtually nil. They were not qualified to investigate each individual loan applicant, since they knew so little about fertilizer, seeds, planting schedules, and so on.

Thus, the syndicate found it necessary to rely upon and to cooperate with the local peasants' associations and the village governments. The size of each loan was finally determined by consultation with representatives of the peasants and the local government.

Actually the job had been made much easier since the district governments, in anticipation of the visit of

representatives of the banking syndicate, had called a peasants' representatives meeting beforehand which decided to launch a general educational movement for bringing home to the farmers the realization that their present conditions are the result of the old system and that now that the authorities and private banks are trying to help, the farmers must help themselves all they can.

The situation in the Pingwang district, one of the three nearby areas in which the syndicate granted loans, serves to illustrate how the project was handled and the results it will produce. In this district 30,000 *catties* of fertilizer were loaned to the farmers. According to statements made by experienced peasants, the wheat production of each *mou* could be increased by 40 *catties* after being treated with 10 *catties* of fertilizer. On the basis of this estimate, the wheat output in the district can be increased by 120,000 *catties*.

Encourages Peasants

Another and very important aspect of the loan is the encouragement which it gave to the farmers. In the past they suffered badly and, because of lack of political understanding, they frequently adopted a negative outlook, blaming their difficulties upon the "fates."

Such an attitude, while understandable because of the farmers' almost hopeless situation in the past, is a definite handicap today when programs of real aid are being worked out. In the old days, especially during the two or three years just prior to liberation, farmers had so much food levied by the KMT that they began to lose interest in attempts to increase harvests. If they spent money on fertilizer and worked hard to raise a big crop, there was just more for the KMT to take. Thus agricultural production tended to decline.

The farmers learned by experience that the less they invested in their crops and land, the better off they were. Some estimates claim that farmers in many KMT areas raised only from 70 to 80 percent of a full crop in the years immediately preceding liberation.

The fact that the Shanghai banks have voluntarily gone to the countryside and are trying to help the farmers has done much to improve the latter's ideological outlook. Thus, the flow of capital to the country from the city through the banking syndicate has not only aided the interflow of commodities between town and village but has shown peasants that the city has an interest in their well-being. As one farmer expressed it: "Before liberation we had never seen any bank clerks, but now they have come to the country in person to lend us money. In order to repay the concern shown by President Mao, the people's government and the Shanghai banking syndicate, we will make all efforts to build up embankments, improve production and guarantee the repayment of the loans."

While the farm loans so far extended have been on a relatively limited scale and, as far as the private banks' loans are concerned, almost on an experimental basis, the groundwork has been laid for an expanded program for the coming season. Already, two more banking syndicates have been formed by local private banks, while the loan extension services of the government banks and trading corporations have been greatly expanded.

Regular Loans

In other places, particularly in the older liberated areas such as north China, this stage has already been passed and regular, extensive rural loans by city banks have become a common occurrence. Reports of the vastly increased purchasing power of the farmers in these areas are an indication of the success of the program.

Within a few seasons the rural economy should be sufficiently on its own feet so that it can dispense with loans from the city, which by that time will require all of its own surplus capital for industrial development. By that time the rural areas should be able to supply increasing amounts of capital both for investment in agricultural improvements and in industrial enterprises.

An indication of what the future holds can be seen from developments to date in the Northeast, which has been totally liberated for some one and a half years. Of course, this area is the most highly industrialized in the country and also has extensive fertile lands and mineral deposits which have yet to be developed. Nevertheless, the trend that becomes established once the people are masters of their own destiny can be seen from the marked progress in this old liberated area.

Startling Figures

According to figures released by Kao Kang, secretary of the Northeast bureau of the Communist Party's Central Committee, the total value of industrial output of state industry in

Land Reform Boosts NE Economy

THE completion of land reform in Manchuria has given rise to rapid economic development there, according to the vice chairman of the Northeast People's Government, Lin Feng.

In a report to the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference in Peking last week, Lin listed the following industrial growth since land reform was completed in 1948:

By 1949, the value of the output of publicly-owned industry in Manchuria amounted to 35 percent of the region's total industrial and agricultural production. This year, it will be 43 percent.

Three hundred and seventeen publicly owned factories were in operation in March. By the end of this year there will be 344.

More than 400,000 new workers have gone into publicly owned industry since last year.

At the same time, private industry has expanded. The number of privately operated industrial and commercial establishments increased by more than 31,000 last year.

Manchuria's industry overfulfilled its first quarterly target this year by 9.2 percent.

* * *

LIN said agricultural production was showing like improvement. Sowing was completed on all cultivated land by the end of May and the grain harvest is expected to be 18,000,000 tons. The area under cotton is more than double that of last year.

The quantity and quality of agricultural products has been raised by the application of science to farming. Fertilized area has been increased by 10 percent. Most of the seeds were sterilized before sowing and 100,000 hectares were sown with selected seeds. There will be selected seeds for most of the land within three years.

Fifteen thousand improved farming implements and Soviet-type farm machines have been sent into the countryside. Twelve mechanized farms have been set up to train cadres in mechanized farming, and a tractor station is now serving the peasants near Mukden.

At the same time the economic growth has brought more stabilized commodity prices and raised the living standards of the people in Manchuria, he said.

Real wages of the average worker have gone up some 40 percent in the last 13 months. A survey conducted in 21 villages in Heilungkiang province shows that middle and rich peasant families form 53.8 percent of the farming population as compared with only 16.1 percent before land reform. Peasants in Kirin province possess an average of 125 kilograms of surplus grain each.

* * *

THE improved economic status of the people is reflected in increased consumption of goods. In 1948, 1,200,000 bolts of cloth were sold in Manchuria. Last year the figure grew to 3,200,000 bolts. This year, it is estimated that 9,000,000 bolts of cloth will be sold.

"All this shows that the agrarian reform has freed the productive forces in the countryside, increased the volume of investments in industrial enterprises, and opened up a wide market for industrial goods, thus paving the way for further industrial construction," Lin concluded. "I believe that what is taking place in Manchuria today will happen in the rest of China tomorrow."

1950 will be 193 percent of the 1949 figure. Of this total, about 79 percent will be of capital goods which in turn will allow for another major production increase for the following year. Despite such heavy concentration on production of capital equipment, the production of consumer goods will be increased by two-fifths over 1949. In agriculture, total grain production will be about 18,000,000 tons, which is 137 percent above the 1949 figure.

It is particularly significant to note that despite this heavy re-investment of capital, the standard of living is increasing with each passing year while the tax burden of the people, in relation to their total income, has become less heavy. In 1948 the peasants paid taxes totaling 23 percent of their income, while in 1949 their tax bill came to 20 percent of their income.

In 1947, before the Northeast had been totally liberated, the consumption of cotton cloth was 800,000 bolts. In 1948, the year during which liberation of the total area was completed, consumption reached 1,200,000 bolts. In 1949, the first year following the Northeast's complete liberation, consumption rose to 3,200,000 bolts. The consumption for this year, it is estimated, may pass the 9,000,000 bolt mark.

Increased Purchasing Power

The significance of these figures is that they indicate the enormously expanding purchasing power of the Northeastern peasants following the completion of agrarian reform. Under the old system of heavy land concentration, exorbitant rent, crippling taxes and miscellaneous levies imposed by both government and landlords, not to mention usury and all the various types of political and economic trickery employed by the ruling class to keep the peasants impoverished, it was impossible to find a market for the consumer products of the factories. The old system resulted in more or less permanent stagnation, with both city and village in the grip of a never ending state of poverty and misery. The little profit that was accrued at the end of each year went to line the pockets of the top flight military-landlord-official class.

Obviously, under such a system, there could be little progress. However, once the oppressors were defeated, the entire situation changed.

Now that all of China, with the exception of Taiwan and Tibet, has been liberated, the people can turn an increasing portion of their energies to rebuilding and reorganizing the economy. While all the problems must be—and are being—tackled, one of the tasks requiring first attention is the improvement in rural conditions. It is only in conjunction with, and to some extent after, efforts for the betterment of the life of the peasants that the campaign to secure an expanding economy and an improving livelihood for all can be successfully carried out.

— *TAO WEI-LIEN*

An Original Story

A New Woman

by Frank Chow

WANG and I had been given two tickets to a special production of the well-known new opera, "Nine Pieces of Clothing." When we arrived at the hall, the curtain was already up and on the stage was the fat landlord enjoying life in the old ways, which drew a great deal of laughter from the audience.

When Shia Yu San, the leading girl, appeared on the stage, there was loud applause. Suddenly Wang grabbed me and said, "Look, isn't that Shao Yin?" I looked more closely at the girl. She was wearing a light blue dress and her pretty hair was smoothly combed back and rounded into a bun at the back of her neck. Her features were so familiar to us. It could be none other than Shao Yin.

* * *

IT happened three months ago. One afternoon, when I was preparing a report and Wang was sorting through a pile of documents, a young woman came in and asked me which one of us was in charge. I pointed to Wang and she went over to him. As Wang looked up at her questioningly, she announced in a clear voice: "My name is Shao. I am called Shao Yin. I've come to request your consideration of my proposal for a divorce."

I looked at her again. She was tall and slender and wore a long blue gown; her light stockings and leather shoes were spattered with mud. Her hair, which was curled, spread in a tangled mass over her shoulders. One cheek was bruised black and blue and there was a piece of blood-stained gauze on her forehead.

Wang gazed at her attentively for a few moments, then asked her to explain her case. The girl's eyes filled with tears and she said with great difficulty: "I am my husband's third concubine. He beat me again last night. This is my evidence." She held out a sheet of paper to Wang. He took the paper and said sympathetically, "Please sit down. There's plenty of time. Tell me, from the beginning..."

The young woman sat down and doing her best to restrain her sobs, told the following story:

* * *

MY family was once happy enough. Then, when I was 14, a misfortune befell my father. He was at that time an employee of one of the cotton mills controlled by the Kuomintang's Bureau of Supply. My father had stood guarantor for one of his colleagues who went away with a big sum of money from the mill. Thereupon the mill authorities arrested father and not even the members of his family were allowed to see him. My mother almost went out of her mind with worry. I was the eldest of her four children and could only add my tears and weeping to hers. We didn't even know where my father was kept. Mother sold the furniture, our clothes and everything possible to raise money with which to bribe her way to seeing father. We children had to stop going to school.

Half a year passed. All our money was used up. It was rumored that father had been transferred, but nobody knew where. Our friends and acquaintances avoided us, as though we were some kind of epidemic. Hopeless and helpless, we had nothing left—even mother's tears were exhausted.

Just then *he* came into my world. He pretended to be one of our neighbors. He came to the house and comforted my mother by saying he knew someone in the government who could get father released on bail. He came often, sometimes bringing a little news, sometimes a little money. For those favors my mother was most thankful to him. Indeed, she believed everything he said.

One day he asked her why I was not going to school. It was a thousand pities, it seemed to him, that such an intelligent girl should be kept at home. "My wife is childless," he said, "She needs a girl to be company for her at home," and added that if I were willing to be adopted into his family he would be glad to give me the opportunity to get more schooling. Not that, he explained most emphatically, he did this out of pity; he did it because as a very close friend of my father's he could not be an unconcerned onlooker while his friend's family was in serious trouble. My mother was deeply moved by his offer and, thanking him with tears in her eyes, made me kowtow to him.

He lived with his second wife in the town, while he left his first wife in the country. With much misgiving I came to live in his house, where my status was in actual fact that of a maid. My mistress, his second wife, treated everyone under her with great severity. I performed such little duties as filling cups with tea, fetching newspapers, sweeping the floor and tidying the beds.

I was anxious to know when he would fulfill his promise of sending me to school, but he never repeated his offer. Sometimes he said the current schools were in a mess, apt to lead young persons astray, and it would be worth my while to study some of the fine old books at home. So, when he was in good spirits, he would call me to his side and teach me to recite a few old Chinese poems.

Two months later he said that he was to be transferred to Peking, and I must decide whether I would go with him or return home. There was no reason whatsoever for staying with him any longer since he did not have the least intention of sending

me to school. Seizing a chance when both he and his wife were out, I rushed home to mother and told her that I didn't want to go.

Mother burst into tears. "You silly girl," she said. "We still don't know where your father is, and this man has promised to help us. He came here yesterday and told me he would certainly send you to school in Peking. You must not only think of yourself. This is a chance for you to learn some way of making a living and help all of us."

Mother went back with me to my mistress and apologized to her for my childish behavior. When I said goodbye to her at the door, she wiped her eyes and forced herself to smile, asking me to write to her often. She said she would send for me the moment father was released. She urged me to make the most of this piece of good fortune... Yes, she took it for good fortune—and so did I.

* * *

ONCE in Peking he spoke no more of my going to school. But, hoping to achieve my end through patience, I endured everything without question. A month later he told me he had found a director of Peking opera who would teach me to play some parts and I should study diligently. This was a complete surprise, and when I attempted to explain that I was not interested in the stage as a profession, he suddenly got angry and shouted at me.

The matter soured him for a week. He turned his back on me when I offered him tea or brought him a newspaper. His wife was also irritated and told him that his plan to make an actress of me was merely building castles in the air. To me she said, "Don't try to be clever, just be what you are!"

At night I wept and wrote secretly to mother, hoping that she would tell me to come home. Her reply was a keen disappointment to me, it seemed so indifferent to my interest. "My dearest," she wrote, "I was sorry to receive your childish letter. Please give up your fancies and listen to reason. Your brother, sisters and I are starving on credit. We have nothing left to pawn. How would we live if you came home? You must do your best to keep on good terms and constantly urge them to help get your father free. Whatever you are taught, just see if it can bring in some money." I began to hate my mother.

So I had to study singing. He treated me a little better after this, making me some small gifts now and again. He liked to listen to me singing melancholy songs in a falsetto voice and I did my best to please him. One day, I thought, I would be able to support my family with my earnings.

Two years passed, and still there was no news of father. Sometimes he said my father was likely to be released soon, at others that matters had gone from bad to worse, but I must not worry for he would make my mother an allowance to cover necessary expenses. I was so grateful to him, I was even glad to flatter him.

This is difficult to tell. One winter day, while his wife was out I was violated by that beast, . . . Our relationship suddenly so entirely changed that I was dumbfounded. He grew very severe with me. He prohibited my going down town by myself or talking to any man. My letters to my family had first to be scrutinized by him. During any private theatricals I was engaged in he would watch me constantly.

Then he took to throwing parties. When drunk he liked to hear me sing a passage or two. If I displeased him at all, I was sure to get a thrashing when the guests had gone. He liked to see me on the stage too and listen to others' praise of his technique in taming such a charming bird. He seized every opportunity to show off my accomplishments, and if I should refuse to perform, I would be beaten. Such was my lot.

* * *

ONE day, when we were quarrelling over whether I should perform that night or not, he said, "I suppose you're homesick. Well, your father has been out of prison for half a year and is living with your mother in this very town. He makes a living by peddling. Isn't that good news? But I advise you not to go to your family, for it's ten to one they won't want you."

I was wildly excited and begged him to tell me where they lived. Finally he did, and as I ran to my home I imagined the tears of joy with which my dear parents would greet their poor daughter. Mother, who was the first to see me, looked quite frightened. Before I could say a word to her, father rushed out. "How dare you come to my house?" he shouted, "You don't belong to me any more. Get out!"

I fell to my knees before him, clutching his hands and crying. Mother stood trembling at one side. My brother and sisters came out and stared. "Father," I cried, "It's not my fault!" As father, shaking with rage, raised his fist to strike me, my mother dragged me aside.

Falling on her knees, mother kowtowed to father and wept, "Punish me! She is innocent! I am to blame!" My brother and sisters were by then crying with fright.

I was a disgrace. I could not stay with them. Nearly stupefied with grief I returned to that evil one. He taunted me, saying: "Didn't I tell you so? Nobody wants you!" My blood boiled with anger and I wanted to kill him there and then. I have not seen any member of my family since.

After this he had a terrible quarrel with his second wife and sent her to the country. He took me with him on his travels to various places. Attending his parties, singing, acting and getting sound thrashings made up my whole life. Suspecting my desire to free myself, he treated me worse than ever. I met no one but his friends. Who was there to help me?

Then, like a thunderbolt, came the People's Liberation Army. Everything began to change. He sank under worries. He gave no more parties; I did not have to sing. We moved from his large mansion to a small place where we led a secluded and simple life. He spoke to me kindly, advising me to live quietly with him. "This is doomsday for everybody," he said. "Anyone who is able to escape with his life should thank his lucky stars."

It seemed very stange to me that he should now begin to philosophize like a priest and my suspicions were aroused. He didn't seem happy about the new government. So I began to study the newspapers carefully, from which I learned much. The chains which had bound me so long, I came to realize, could today be broken.

Three days ago he told me in an apologetic tone that father had died two years ago. Because he was afraid the news would break my heart, he said, he had kept it from me until the present. If, he added, I would live quietly with him he would take me to my mother when winter came. I did not shed a tear, only hatred welled up in me. If only I could finish him off right now!

Yesterday I went to the local Woman's Federation to ask their assistance. They assured me of their help and told me the first step was to come here, to the Regional Office, and put in an appeal. When I got home, he already knew where I had been and gave me a terrible thrashing. I have now run away for good.

* * *

"WE must investigate the whole matter carefully," Wang said. "If what you have told us is the truth we can certainly bring a suit against him."

During the next few days I visited the Woman's Federation, his neighbors and the man's former acquaintances on behalf of the Regional Government. All Shao Yin had told us was true and much more beside. The man had been a political traitor, a puppet district magistrate and a profiteer. However, for the moment he had retired from society, and was trying to conceal his past. Finally, I called upon him in person.

As I explained the reason for my visit, he could not conceal his fright. "You can't believe a word that woman says. She's out of her mind," he told me, indicating her mental state by tapping his own head. "I could have made charges against her for going off with a large sum of money,"

he continued, shaking his head, "but I am not so hard hearted."

Meanwhile, the Woman's Federation had also investigated Shao Yin's case closely and found her story was entirely correct. They declared, in a letter to our office, that they were ready to defend Shao Yin's rights and privileges, and they hoped that we would handle the case justly. We, therefore, called a joint meeting to consider the case, where it was decided unanimously that a divorce should be granted.

The couple were summoned to the office. Shao Yin came very early. She went to the desk and signed her name on the divorce certificate, which had been prepared, and sat down gloomily in one corner. After a while the fat "magistrate" appeared. All eyes were instantly fixed on him. Seeing the piece of paper on the desk he suddenly realized what had happened. "You can't do such a thing," he cried. "It's unlawful to break marriages. How can you only listen to one side of a case..."

"Don't talk, just sign." Wang said severely. "You must be aware of what you have done."

He looked around, but was only met with smiles of contempt. He snatched the writing brush, the blood flushing up into his pale, swollen face. Then he hesitated and, raising his head, shouted at Shao Yin: "You better look out, woman! You are forcing me to sign. If I see you with another man I'll break every bone in your body!"

"No! No!" Shao Yin cried, bursting into tears, "I shall never marry again. I hate you men too much!"

Wang jumped to his feet and shouted: "How dare you threaten her even in the court? Are you going to sign?"

"Yes, yes. I will, since I must," he said, and hurriedly signed the paper.

Wang read the two copies of the certificate. Handing one to the man, he said: "You cannot trouble her further. The government guarantees her independence and freedom."

"Many thanks." Then going up to Shao Yin, he said sentimentally, "For old times sake, please come to my house and take whatever you need, or if you prefer I will have the things sent to you."

"No, no," Shao Yin cried. "I won't take a thing from you, not even a needle and thread."

"All right, all right!" he said hastily and turned to bow to us, repeatedly saying: "Thanks comrades, thanks comrades." And mopping his brow confusedly he hurried out of the room.

Shao Yin, taking her copy of the certificate, seemed ill at ease. "I am sorry I don't know how to express my gratitude," she said.

"What will you do?" Wang asked her.

"I don't know yet," she replied. "I have registered for work in a shoe factory. Fortunately I have no one to support but myself."

"How about going on the stage? One ought to make good use of one's talents," suggested Wang.

"No," she said, "I don't want to sing."

"Of course I didn't mean you should join a theatrical troupe," Wang explained. "But the other day I was told there is a vacancy in a mobile educational team. If you are interested, I will be glad to recommend you. However, it will be a strenuous job."

"Yes, comrade," she answered, "I should like to try. I am not afraid of hardship."

* * *

SINCE then we had heard nothing from Shao Yin. In fact we had forgotten about her case. Now she appeared before us on the stage and her voice, choked with sorrow, produced a deep impression on the audience.

A few days later, as I returned from an outing, I saw Wang at the door talking with a young woman comrade in a blue uniform. Seeing me, Wang called out happily, "Hello, Liu, Comrade Shao has come to see us at last."

She turned to me, smiling and shook hands warmly. Her cheeks were rosy and full, her eyes bright with happiness and her dark hair was cut short.

"Well," asked Wang, "how have things been?"

"Ah," she replied, "at first I felt very strange in my new life. I was lonely, but I was afraid of any contact with the experienced older actresses, because to be with them would remind me of my past. Nor did I want to be with the younger ones, for I envied them their pure, stainless memories." Shao Yin paused, and then went on: "Comrade Wang, you can have no idea of the weight of my burden during the first few days.

"It was not until I had completed one month of *hsueh hsi* (study), that I discovered that my humiliation was nothing but the product of the old social system, and that, as a human being, I was not less virtuous than any maiden. I then determined to make known my story publicly. As I told my story at a memory-telling meeting, the illusory grim walls of agony that had imprisoned me suddenly fell and I saw the light of a truly new world. A woman comrade hugged me and said with tears: 'Why did you not tell us before?'"

Then Comrade Shao Yin, her face flushed with emotion, added: "The members of our team are just like brothers and sisters. I am particularly happy at being treated like a human being instead of a toy bird."

Two Poems by Wen I-to

Heart-Beat (心跳)

The light of this lamp, and the four walls washed with white;
These good old chairs and tables, intimate as friends;
A whiff of fragrance now and then blown to me from ancient books;
Fine tea cups, like virgins white and spotless;
The baby son making little sucking noises at his mother's breast;
Snoring sounds, telling healthy tidings of my eldest son;
This mystic night silence, this all-enfolding peace:
My throat trembles with a song of thankfulness.
— But my singing all too soon turns into cursing.
Silent night! I cannot, O, I cannot yield to your bribery.
Who treasures your wall-enclosed square foot of peace?
My world has wider, vaster borders.
These four walls can never cut me off from the noisy cries of battle.
Have you any way to stop the beating of my heart?

Better let sand and mud stop up my mouth
If it can sing but one man's peace and pain:
Better let the field mouse dig his hole in my skull,
Let this piece of flesh and blood go to feed the worms,
If it is only for a cup of wine and a book of poetry.
In the silent night, the swinging pendulum brings a slice of easy-going life,
And you cannot hear on all four sides the groaning of your neighbors,
Nor see the trembling shadow of the widows and the orphans,
The convulsions in the trenches, the mad man gnawing the sick-bed,
Nor every sorrow ground beneath the millstone of man's life.
Happiness! I cannot now give in to your beguiling;
My world is not within this wall enclosed square foot of space.
Listen! another blast of cannon, another roar of the death-god!
Silent night! how can you stop the beating of my heart?

Two Words (一句話)

Two words there are when spoken mean disaster:
Two words can kindle fire.
O think not, "Fifty years of unbroken silence!"
Can you see through the sealed stillness of a volcano?
Who says it has been ignited by the Evil One?
Suddenly, out of the blue sky — thunder!
A blast of sound: "Our China!"

These words — how can I say them today?
You do not believe an iron tree can flower — very well;
Yet there are two words you must listen to.
Wait until the volcano can no longer bear its sealed silence:
O, do not tremble, thrust out your tongue, or stamp your foot;
Wait till from the blue sky thunder rumbles —
A mighty blast: "Our China!"

— Translated by DRYDEN LINSLEY PHELPS and MARY KATHARINE WILLMOTT

Anniversary of Poet's Assassination

Wen I-to

THIS July 15 marks the fourth anniversary of the assassination of Professor Wen I-to of Lienta University, Kunming, by KMT plug-uglies. The brutal murder of this poet and professor of literature came only four days after the killing of Li Kung-p'o, also in Kunming. These murders of Democratic League leaders marked the climax of the KMT reign of terror that left a trail of horror in many cities of China. The KMT used the killing of democratic individuals to terrorize the people and maintain its own despotic one-party rule.

At the time of the killings, negotiations between the KMT, the Communists, the Democratic League, and other progressive parties, aimed at putting an end to the civil war and the setting-up of a truly representative government, had broken down because of the KMT's refusal to give up its monopoly of political power. Since both Wen I-to and Li Kung-p'o were members of the Democratic League, a progressive party which opposed the KMT and demanded an end of the civil war and one-party rule, it was obvious that they were assassinated by KMT secret agents in an attempt to sabotage the negotiations and eliminate democratic opposition.

Shortly after these murders, members of the League met in Kunming with other progressives, including Kuo Mo-jo, and denounced the fascist nature of assassination as a political weapon. The KMT increased its pressure, however, and the situation became so bad that 11 members of the League were forced to take refuge in a foreign consulate. Chiang K'ai-shek hypocritically remarked that it was too bad Chinese were forced to actions that recalled the old extrality days, for personal safety.

Li Kung-p'o specialized in education. He became well-known as one of the "Seven Patriotic Gentlemen" jailed by the KMT in 1936 because they urged the government to fight the Japs instead of the Communists. This group included Shen Chen-ju, Ch'iang Nai-chi, Sha Ch'ien-li and Sse Liang. During the war he taught at the National Revolution University at Taiyuan and organized anti-Japanese education corps. In Kunming, he was head of the Democratic League office.

Wen I-to, 47 at the time of his murder, was born into an old Hupeh family. His father, a scholar well-versed in the classics, gave his children a classical education. Later, Wen I-to graduated from Tsinghua University, Peking, and went abroad for further study. Despite his early classical education, this scholar-poet became an ardent champion of a modern poetic style. Among his works, the collection of poems titled "Dead Water" was most widely known. During the war against Japan, he was professor of literature at Lienta in Kunming. He was very poor, and eked out his meager salary by carving seals, often working far into the night.

The years of Wen I-to's life spanned an era of cataclysmic changes, which were reflected in his own thought and feeling. His poetry, at first characterized by subjectivism, became, toward the end of his short life, the powerful expression of a passionate fellow-feeling for mankind. The impact of the war shattered his ivory tower completely (shown in "Heart-Beat"), and he identified himself with his country's struggle ("Two Words").

Wen interested himself in attempting to change the prevailing "free verse" style of Chinese poetry into a poetry of a more regular beat and cadence. One critic has called Wen's attack on free verse a great contribution to modern Chinese poetry. While employing a more formal regularity in the accents and pauses of his lines, Wen permitted himself the widest freedom in the materials of poetry. This is illustrated by a few freely-translated lines from the poem "Dead Water:"

> This is a pool of dead water,
> lifeless and forlorn;/No clear breeze
> can raise even half a ripple./Let's
> heap it with broken brass and rusted iron,/Or dump in it our kitchen
> refuse and unfinished soup—/Perhaps the broken will oxidize into
> emeralds,/The kitchen grease will
> weave a silken gossamer,/The iron
> rust shape into peach-blossom petals
> —/And bacteria, under the sun, hasten the growth of moss.

A foreign friend of Wen I-to's, Robert Payne, who was with him at Lienta, said of him, "His classrooms were always filled to overflowing, and there would be perhaps forty students listening through the windows. He had a quiet contempt for the professors who thought it unnecessary to speak with students about political problems. He believed the present [KMT] government of China to be corrupt, and said so openly, with no shadow of fear. . .

"He started life with an intense desire to paint, went to America, returned with his mind full of colors, helped to build up the architectonics of modern Chinese verse and having written two slim books of poems, decided to dedicate the rest of his life to an examination of the ancient Chinese classics in the light of modern criticism. . .

"When the students were murdered in December (1945), he did his best to make sure that justice would be done, and in doing this incurred so much enmity that we knew even then that his life was at stake. . . . He cared nothing for his own life, and on March 17 this year marched at the head of the funeral procession through the streets of Kunming and gave the saddest of all the farewells at the grave."

* * *

IN March of this year, it was reported that Hsiung Fu-kwang, a notorious KMT gestapo agent, had been arrested in Chungking. He confessed to the assassination of Li Kung-pu and Wen I-to, "on the orders of the KMT Kunming Garrison Chief Ho Kwei-chang." Hsiung said that, because of his "successful killings," he was promoted the follow year.

Wen I-to, done to death four years ago, has been avenged by the forces of democracy for whose principles he sacrificed his life.

His biographer, Mien Chih, says of him, "He was a poet, scholar, fighter. He expressed the sufferings and longings of the people by mouth and pen. 'One man alone is futile,' he cried to the students; 'Students alone are nothing,' he cried to youth; 'Youth alone is powerless,' he cried, and led the people to join in China's democratic alliance. He led students, workers, young people and the mass of the people in one united outcry. They longed for democracy and peace. They hated dictatorship and civil war. His voice and the people's response penetrated throughout the country. . . . Chiang Kai-shek's special agents murdered him. He died and fell, but in his place thousands upon thousands of people stood up. . ."

Portrait of Prof. Wen I-to—Hsia Chih-i

CHINA AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

UN Action Illegal

DESPITE US action, China is determined to liberate Taiwan, according to a statement by Foreign Minister Chou En-lai which was contained in a message to the members of the UN Security Council. The message, sent to UN Secretary General Trygve Lie for transmission to the members of the Security Council, denounced the Security Council decision to assist South Korea. American moves against Taiwan also were denounced.

The message stated in part: "In the name of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China I declare: The resolution adopted by the Security Council on June 27 under the instigation and manipulation of the US government calling upon the members of the United Nations to assist the South Korean authorities, is in support of US armed aggression and constitutes an intervention in the internal affairs of Korea and violation of world peace. This resolution, being adopted moreover in the absence of the two permanent members of the Security Council, the People's Republic of China and USSR, is obviously illegal. . . . "

Referring to Taiwan, Foreign Minister Chou stated: "Meanwhile, the statement by US President Truman on June 27, of the beginning of armed prevention of Taiwan's liberation by the People's Republic of China, together with the action of the US navy in invading the Chinese territorial waters around Taiwan forms an act of open aggression which thoroughly violates the principle of the UN Charter forbidding any member to use force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state. Taiwan is an inseparable part of the territory of China. . . .

"Now, in the name of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China I declare: Despite any military steps of obstruction taken by the US government, the Chinese people are irrevocably determined to liberate Taiwan without fail."

Peace Committee Call

THE China Committee of the World Peace Congress issued a call to the people of China to demonstrate against "the new aggression of US imperialism in Asia." The call was made on the 13th anniversary of the outbreak of the anti-Japanese War on July 7, 1937.

The peace committee appeal stated: "At the moment when the peoples of the world, and more particularly the peoples of the Far East, are struggling to safeguard world peace against imperialist aggression, we call on people's organizations throughout the land to demonstrate and rally against the new aggression in Asia of US imperialism, successor to Japanese imperialism, and of its collaborators. . . .

"We should resolutely prepare to liberate Taiwan and voice our support for the struggle of the peoples of Vietnam, the Philippines and Japan. We strongly oppose the long-term occupation of Japan by US imperialism and the turning of Japan into a US colony and a base for a new war.

"We should use the experiences amassed by the peoples of China and various other Asian countries during the war against Japan to encourage the Asian peoples against the new aggression. Our slogan is: Peoples of Asia unite, drive out the American aggressors! Oppose the lackeys of the US aggressors! Defend world peace through the liberation struggles of the Asian peoples!

"Long live the spirit of the anti-Japanese War!"

Colleges for Minorities

CHINA'S downtrodden minorities are in for a new deal in education. Colleges for national minorities are to be established in Peking and northwest and southwest China to train cadres for regional government work in the areas inhabited by minorities.

Li Wei-han, director of the Commission of Nationalities' Affairs, at a recent Peking meeting stated that reforms among the minorities should be carried out to the extent of their political awareness. In addition, any reforms which are not agreed to by the majority of the people will not be carried out. Their religious beliefs should be safeguarded and respected.

The Central People's Government also will take steps to assist their economic and cultural development and deal with the suggestions on this matter raised at the recent meeting of the National Committee of the PPCC.

Slogans For Peace

A SET of 12 slogans for peace was issued by the Shanghai Branch of the China Committee of the World Peace Congress. The slogans ran as follows:

1. Oppose warmongers, resolutely defend world peace!

2. Oppose warmongers' instigation of a new world war!

3. Do not let US imperialism undermine peace in the Far East!

4. Oppose US imperialist intervention in the affairs of the Asian peoples!

5. Oppose US imperialist aid to the reactionaries in various countries in slaughtering the people!

6. Oppose US imperialist violation of the UN Charter and intervention in China's internal affairs!

7. Oppose US imperialist encroachment upon the sovereign independence and territorial integrity of the Far Eastern countries!

8. The first government that uses the atomic bomb is the war criminal!

9. If the people of the whole world resolutely defend world peace, a new war is surely to be stopped!

10. Smash the imperialist war intrigues with all the people's might!

11. One more signature on the peace appeal, one more ounce of strength!

12. Long live lasting world peace!

Writers Protest to US

MORE than 130 noted figures in Chinese cultural life, headed by writer and historian Kuo Mo-jo and novelist Mao Tun, protested the recent imprisonment of US progressives.

In a cabled message to President Truman they spoke out against the jailing of Howard Fast, Dr. Edward Barsky and other leaders of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee in New York. The cable read: "The unjust imprisonment of Dr. Barsky, Howard Fast and the nine other leaders of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee and the recent attack on the Korean people, as well as the transgression on the territory of our country, fully reveal the fascist nature of your government. We solemnly protest to you and demand that you immediately restore Dr. Barsky, Howard Fast and the other nine persons to freedom and stop your aggression."

A strong protest against the persecution of Nazim Hikmet, Turkish revolutionary poet, was signed by 25 noted Chinese poets including Emi Siao, Ai Ching and Tien Chien. Hikmet has been jailed for 12 years by the Tukish government. The protest stated in part:

"The persecution of the revolutionary poet Nazim Hikmet by the reactionary Turkish government is a thoroughly brutal, fascist atrocity. The world already knows that the Turkish government, which is sponsored by the American imperialists, tries on all occasions to persecute and murder partiots in order to remove obstacles to its traitors' dictatorship. . .

"We protest against this atrocity and all Chinese poets sincerely express their esteem and sympathy for Nazim Hikmet, for his patriotic behavior and his excellent work. We support the actions of the International Committee in Defense of Nazim Hikmet in Paris, and demand his immediate release."

Agrarian Reform

CHINA'S new agrarian reform, set to start this winter, was dealt with in an editorial in the Peking *People's Daily*. The paper pointed out that completion of agrarian reform will create conditions favorable to the fundamental financial and economic improvement of the nation.

"This nation-wide agrarian reform," the paper stated, "is not only greater in scope than anything known in Chinese history, but also than anything comparable in the history of the world revolution. During the winter of 1950 and the spring of 1951, agrarian reform will be accomplished in areas embracing a rural population of 100,000,000. Then in the winter of 1951 and the spring of 1952 it will be carried further in rural areas containing 160,000,000 to 170,000,000. people.

"It is equal to the carrying through of revolutionary changes in several foreign countries combined. It will be the fiercest struggle which the Chinese people have had to wage against the remnants of the feudal system since victory on the military fronts. Victory in this war will, in fact, put an end to the semi-feudal character of Chinese society."

ECONOMIC

Steady Currency in South

LONG accustomed to US, Hongkong and silver dollars, the province of Kwangtung is witnessing the spectacle of all these being driven out as a result of the steadiness of the Central People's Government's currency.

Following liberation last October, US dollars disappeared but both Hongkong dollars and silver dollars remained. However, with the stabilization of prices this past March, the process of driving these out of circulation got under way. In the month of March alone, more Hongkong dollars were exchanged for people's currency than in the whole of the previous five months, *Hsinhua* reported. By May the amount of Hongkong dollars exchanged for people's currency doubled that of March.

In areas around Kukong, Lokchong and other counties in north Kwangtung, shops keep a considerable amount of people's currency instead of exchanging it immediately into silver dollars, as they tended to do in the past.

In the eastern part of this rich south China province the peasants have entirely abandoned the use of grain and yarn as means of exchange and people's dollars are now circulating freely. Peasants' representatives from all parts of Kwangtung, now meeting in Canton for the first Peasants' Congress, have requested the government to make more currency available for the countryside.

North China Trade

GOVERNMENT efforts to expand the two-way flow of goods and farm products between city and countryside are reported to be meeting with success. In north China the trade interflow has been gaining momentum and is considered to represent a healthy change in relations

Articles of Interest:

The Peace Signature Movement

In under three months, the peace signature movement, initiated by the World Peace Congress, has developed into a world movement and by the end of May the number of signatures exceeded 100,000,000. In the Peoples' Democracies of Asia the movement is just now developing to its climax. To push the movement further, the Executive Bureau of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress on May 31 issued a call for a signature competition.

Mr. Huang Tsai-liang, in an article "Significance of the Peace Signature Movement" published in Shih Chieh Chih Shih (World Culture) Vol. 21, No. 23, emphasizes the meaning of this movement.

* * *

WHAT, asks the author, does the rapid development of the peace signature movement signify? His answer is: "The unanimous determination and desire of the absolute majority of people the world over in opposing a war of aggression and defending world peace." The millions of signatures are not, he states, simply "a list" but a "great pledge" against any instigator of aggressive wars.

What, again asks Mr. Huang, does such an enthusiastic development of the movement prove? He replies: "It proves that the strength of the peace camp has been speedily developing and that the movement to defend world peace has reached a new stage of practical action by the broad masses of the people the world over." It further signifies, the author says, that peace loving people "can contribute a matchless great force that will defeat the war instigators." Indeed, this movement has already "heavily afflicted imperialism," he claims. At first, he points out, the imperialist bloc attempted to ignore the call for signatures to the peace appeal, but now it is persecuting the peace fighters and banning the movement, clearly showing the weakness of the reactionaries and the need to expand the movement.

There are in China, says Mr. Huang, some misunderstandings of the movement and it is important that these points be clarified. One question raised, he says is: Does opposition to war mean opposition to all wars, for instance participation in the Chinese people's war of liberation? In reply he refers to the "History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union," where this question has been clearly analyzed as follows: wars are of two kinds—just wars and unjust wars. The first, he explains, waged to defend the people from foreign attack and from attempts to enslave them. Such wars must be enthusiastically upheld. Unjust wars, he says, are wars of conquest, waged to conquer and enslave foreign countries and nations, which must be opposed. Righteous wars for national liberation have become an important part of the struggle for defending world peace in that they weaken the aggressive strength of imperialism. Therefore, the Chinese people "should also concentrate all their strength in the fight for liberating Taiwan and all of China . . . as an important contribution to the consolidation of the peace of the Far East and the world."

Another question some people ask, the writer reports, is whether the pushing of the peace movement on such a grand scale does not imply that the "third world war is certainly inevitable," and such people as a consequence are pessimistic and uneasy. Mr. Huang claims that these people have only seen one side of the matter; the other side is that the adventurers, headed by the US, are "ferociously making war preparations." Though there is danger of a new war, he continues, it "is by no means inevitable" and such a danger can be overcome for the following reasons:

1) The great majority of people the world over do not want war, only a small cluster of warmongers want war. 2) The peoples of the world have great organized strength to strive for peace. Of the total world population of 2,250,000,000, over 1,000,000,000 organized people now stand in the peace camp headed by the Soviet Union, resolutely struggling for world peace. 3) The peace-loving people of the world have been further mobilized to strengthen and expand the united front in defense of peace. 4) The warmongers are becoming more and more isolated and vulnerable, not only because the people oppose their war plans, but because of the deepening internal economic crises and sharpening of internal contradictions. Mr. Huang sums up: if the people of the world are further organized to fight the warmongers, then the danger of a new war can certainly be averted.

The author agrees that atomic weapons are frightful but the myth that "atomic bombs may destroy the whole world," propagated by American imperialism, has been exploded by scientists. The World Peace Congress, Mr. Huang continues, demands the prohibition of atomic weapons, not only because they are atrocious weapons, cherished by US imperialism to use against the people, but because the demand is an effective method of extensively mobilizing the people of the world against wars of aggression by the American imperialist-led bloc.

between the peasants and residents of urban areas.

In Hopei province, the state-owned Hopei Local Goods Company is doing away with the practice of buying from the peasants without regard to their needs for consumer goods and daily necessities. Branches of this firm not only bought 675 tons of raw cotton and 4,000,000 fresh eggs from the peasants but supplied them with 675 tons of salt, which they badly needed, during May. They also supplied light industrial products in large quantities.

Hsinhua reports that the freer flow of goods between city and countryside has also caused a boom in private business in Chahar province. For example, the Yung Fa Ho General Goods Store in Kalgan did 51 percent more business in the first nine days of June than in the entire month of May. In Suiyuan province, state-owned trading companies in Paotou and Kweisui also have been carrying on two-way trade with the peasants, buying hides, furs and herbs and selling cloth, tools and daily necessities.

The Week's Business

Foreign exchange rates were lowered because of devaluation of currency in US and Britain, and the stabilization achieved in commodity prices in China. This will help the long-range interest of exporters, who have been encouraged by the lowering of freight charges for export goods.

* * *

AS a result of the efforts of state trading organs at regulating supply and demand in the market, the upward trend for a number of commodity quotations has been curbed, particularly for sugar. Prices of industrial raw materials have also stopped rising under heavy sales by the Chemical and Industrial Raw Material Corporation.

Among the imported supplies, quotations of pharmaceuticals gained to some extent during the week. That the quotations of import goods have registered considerable increases lately is attributed, in some cases, to reasonable readjustments in prices, but mostly to speculative activities.

To remedy this situation, the Ministry of Trade of the Central People's Government is reported contemplating the establishment of a China Industrial Equipment Corporation to take up such tasks as regulating the supply and demand of industrial raw materials, maintaining their prices, and so forth. At the same time private importers will be encouraged to bring in raw materials.

Meanwhile, foreign exchange rates were lowered twice during the week under review, coming down from JMP37,000 to JMP35,000 for the US dollar.

The lowering of foreign exchange rates was reported brought about by two factors:

1) With the preliminary stabilization achieved in commodity prices in the country, the credit of Jen Min Piao has been raised, and the people's livelihood and the progress of production and construction have been assured. Although the possibility of further price fluctuations in the future still exists, the margin will definitely be narrowed because of the unified control of the people's government.

2) The currency of the United States and Britain is undergoing steady devaluation, and commodity prices in these two countries have been rising. According to recent compilations the devaluation of the US dollar came to eight percent, and that of pound sterling, five percent. Thus the value of the people's currency, in terms of foreign currency, has been elevated.

Appropriate revisions in the foreign exchange rates are therefore indispensable, as otherwise the prices of export goods from this country in the international market would be too low, which may affect the foreign exchange revenue of China and may cause fluctuations in the prices of export goods in the domestic market. If the foreign exchange rates had not been revised, the prices of import goods would have been too high as a result of price rises in foreign countries, and the burden of the country as well as of the public and private industrial and commercial enterprises would have been increased. In the United States, the price of American cotton was US$0.346 per pound on June 30 and US$0.3510 per pound on July 7.

The revisions effected in the foreign exchange rates will have definite results, observers have pointed out. In the first place, the import of supplies will be increased in volume as a result of the reduced exchange rates, so that fluctuations in the international market will be stabilized, in complete accordance with the long-range interest for the export trade. The people's government has further lowered the railway freight charges for export goods, and it is up to the exporters to effect internal reorganization and reduce the margin of profit to pull through the current difficult period. The formation of combines among local exporters has been encouraged.

Quotations

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices.

	July 5 JMP	July 12 JMP
Parity unit	5,178	5,178
US dollar (TT)	35,500	35,000
20's yarn	5,500,000	5,500,000
42's yarn	8,260,000	8,240,000
12-lb. cloth	240,000	240,000
Rice, 1st grade	256,000	256,000
Battleship flour	56,000	—
Peanut oil	485,000	485,000
Coal briquette	17,500	17,500
Kerosene, Kuokwang	120,000	120,000
Koo Pan soap	244,000	244,000

SHANGHAI

Rationing Abolished

PRICE stabilization and ample food supplies have brought about an end to Shanghai's rationing of rice and wheat flour. The stock of grain now in Shanghai is sufficient to supply the city's population for many months. The price of rice has remained the same in the past two months, after falling in March and April.

Rationing of rice and flour was started in Shanghai last July in an effort to guard the living standards of the workers and achieve market stability. During the past year, all workers, employees, students, teachers, government functionaries and citizens who were members of street cooperatives could buy 16 kilograms of rice, or one sack of flour per month, at much lower than the market price.

The people of Shanghai can now buy any amount of grain at a unified price from either state-run shops, cooperatives or private shops.

Rail Equipment Uncovered

EQUIPMENT amounting in value to JMP382,000,000,000 was uncovered in a warehouse check-up by the Shanghai Railway Administration. This was part of the campaign of recent months aimed at unearthing various valuable properties which were cached away under the KMT regime.

The railway stocks recently uncovered weighed 143,083 tons and consisted of machinery, tools, bridge beams, train wagon parts and 97,260 different items of rail supplies. Raw materials and railway supplies uncovered in the checking, but which were not listed in any of the ledgers, weighed 11,287 tons, the total value of which was estimated at JMP10,498,000,000.

Worker and Peasant Schools

A TOTAL of 44 worker and peasant schools with more than 230 classes, aside from several dozen voluntary courses, have been set up in 10 suburban districts recently. Peasants make up about 60 percent of the students while workers make up 20 percent.

In contrast to the "public schools" under the KMT, the present schools for the workers and peasants around Shanghai emphasize service to the workers and peasants. The students receive everything free of charge except their textbooks. Classes are generally held at night so as not to interfere with production.

This type of school is still in its preliminary stage and much remains to be done in the field of teaching methods and courses. However, the fact that the number of students has grown to about 10,000 since the early days just after the liberation of Shanghai is cited as evidence that a great deal has been accomplished.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

KOREA

US Army Difficulties

AMERICAN troops in South Korea were having no easy time. According to a dispatch of the *Korean Central Telegraph Agency* from Phyongyang, before they even had time to go into action against regular Korean People's Army forces, the Americans were attacked by local partisans about 25 miles south of Suwon.

At the same time the 24th Battalion of the American 21st Infantry Division was reported to have been completely routed in the battle for Pyungtaik, an important rail town 50 miles south of Seoul. American troops who fled in confusion left behind numerous dead and large quantities of equipment. The KPA reported capturing many American officers and men. The KPA also claimed that Japanese troops were being used in an attempt to stave off defeat in South Korea, where apparently Syngman Rhee's South Korean troops have been able to put up little effective resistance.

On July 7 the headquarters of the KPA stated that their units were in hot pursuit of fleeing American and Syngman Rhee forces. In the course of the campaign, the KPA inflicted a heavy blow on American ground forces, took a large number of prisoners and seized a huge amount of war trophies. Remnants of the US forces fled southward, abandoning their weapons. By the end of the first week in July, one-third of the territory south of the 38th parallel had been liberated by the KPA.

MacArthur Made Leader

WRAPPED in the flag of the United Nations, General MacArthur has been selected by President Truman as the leader in the fight to defeat the forces of North Korea. The appointment followed a Security Council resolution calling for an overall commander-in-chief for all forces aiding South Korea.

Despite the UN wrapping, with MacArthur as leader it was difficult for America to hide her hand as the leader in the war against North Korea. For MacArthur, his throne was in the process of expanding from that of ruler of Japan to "leader" of many nations.

The forces under MacArthur's command included air and naval units from Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the Netherlands in addition to air, naval and ground troops of the United States.

America Accused

IN a cable to the UN the North Korean government charged the US with barefaced aggression. The accusation sent by Foreign Minister Pak Hen Yen said America was trying to establish imperialist domination in the Far East and he warned that Koreans would fight a "holy war" against all attacks.

In the course of their charges against America the North Koreans recounted past events to support accusations of aggression. They claimed that because North Korea had become the base for a struggle for unity and independence, the South Korean Republic and the US had plans to "throttle it by military force."

The North Korean cable also stated: "The complete bankruptcy of the Syngman Rhee regime has today become obvious. Seeing the collapse of their plans for the colonization of Korea, the American imperialists are reinforcing their armed intervention against the Korean people."

Atom Bomb Suggested

TWO days after the outbreak of war in Korea, from South Carolina came the report that Representative Rivers of the House Armed Services Committee stated that the dropping of the atomic bomb "is now in order" to end the Korean war.

Representative Rivers predicted that one atomic bomb on the largest city in North Korea "would put an end to this sudden and unprovoked act of aggression."

JAPAN

Present for US

FOLLOWING the Dulles-Johnson-Bradley visit to Japan the Tokyo newspaper *Yomiuri* urged the Japanese to "give military bases to the US because Japan's security can be protected only by the US." The paper suggested a five to 10 year agreement which could be extended in the event of necessity.

It was argued that Japan had no other recourse because the UN is unable to give such protection and "Japan without military help would be unable to defend herself against Communist aggression as well as maintain neutrality in the event of a third world war."

Meanwhile, reports from MacArthur's headquarters revealed that Japan will need American economic aid at least until 1953. A report on the present and future of Japan's economy said, "The major outstanding problem continuing to confront the occupation is that of achieving an economy capable of self-support at an adequate standard of living, freeing the US from further aid appropriations."

"After this we'll get a really big bomb—but we'll have to operate from the moon."

— *Sydney (Australia) Tribune*

"Assassination Attempts"

AKAHATA, newspaper of the Japanese Communist Party, prior to its suspension by the authorities forecast "assassination attempts" in the future against officials in Japan. The paper stated that if attempts are made they will be "reactionary frame-ups" designed to implicate the Communists.

The Communist Party paper said it had received information that "reactionary provocateurs" were plotting new attempts on the lives of "important leaders" as well as sabotage in order to bring further trouble to the Communist Party.

Meanwhile, an American military court sentenced four young Japanese leftists to two years hard labor for circulating propaganda against General MacArthur, according to a news agency report from Toyko. At the same time, police have arrested 59 officials of the Tokyo Financial Affairs Bureau of the Finance Ministry. They were charged with graft, embezzlement, fraud and other illegal practices concerning public property and money. The amount of money involved was estimated to be about $250,000. Those arrested included section and department chiefs.

Police Hunt Communists

A NATION-WIDE hunt for nine leaders of the Japanese Communist Party has been launched by the Japanese police. Secretary-General Tokuda and internationally known Sanzo Nozaka were among those being searched for. All nine had been purged in MacArthur's directive last month.

The nine Communists failed to report their addresses to the Attorney-General's office within one month after they were purged as stipulated by the purge directive. They also failed to report for questioning regarding a meeting at which the rebuilding of the Communist Party was portedly discussed.

* * *

THE Japanese government has been authorized to establish a national police of 75,000 men in a letter from General MacArthur to Prime Minister Yoshida. In his letter, MacArthur recalled that in 1947 he had approved a recommendation of the Japanese government for an increase in the overall strength of the Japanese police force to 125,000 men, making provision for a new national rural police force of 30,000 men.

Japan's press quoted government sources as stating that the new police reserve unit of 75,000 men would most likely be equipped with heavy arms and vehicles. The police reserves would be under the direct jurisdiction of the cabinet and independent of the existing national rural police and local autonomous police forces. Units would be stationed at major cities and moved around as the occasion demanded.

AUSTRALIA

Seamen Against Korea War

THE Federal Executive of the Australian Seamen's Union has banned its members from transporting war materials to Korea. In announcing this decision a resolution was passed by the Executive "condemning the dictatorial decision of Prime Minister Menzies in ordering Australian naval seamen to submit to orders from the US in its blatant interference in the domestic affairs of the Korean people."

The union action affects nearly all Australian merchant seamen, the overwhelming majority of whom are members of the Seamen's Union. The resolution also said Australian seamen would "mobilize opposition to Menzies' aims to make Australia an American colony" and would "actively oppose interference in Korea by means of Australian forces or war materials."

Bombers and Soldiers

PRIME Minister Robert G. Menzies, anti-communism's most vociferous champion down under, has announced that a Royal Australian Air Force squadron of heavy bombers will be sent to Malaya. Taking time off from his drive to outlaw the Communist Party at home, Menzies declared: "Preservation of British authority in Malaya is vital to Australia's security."

The heavy bomber squadron to be dispatched to Malaya will be in addition to the squadron of transport Dakotas which have already been transferred to Malaya.

Referring to British action in Malaya, Menzies said: "We cannot regard the task in that country as solely one for the United Kingdom." The prime minister said that the insurgents in Malaya "make it their business to render British control difficult and if they succeed they will make it impossible. The Cabinet regards these matters as not only grave, individually, but as added evidence of Communist aggression in Asia — an aggression which is full of menace for us."

While Australia was helping to hold up the Commonwealth's end in Asia, Britain has approved a scheme for Australia to recruit 4,500 single men in England for her regular army. The recruits would do a six-year stint in the Australian army.

A publicity campaign is set to start in August calling on Britons to join the Australian army. Passages to Australia for those joining up, as well as for their dependents, will be arranged under an immigration scheme.

THE PHILIPPINES

On War Footing

A RECENT meeting in Manila of top military and defense officials took up various aspects of placing the islands on a war footing. Funds for the armed services were included in the topics under discussion.

Among the items taken up were: 1) Approval of an extraordinary appropriations bill of $25,000,000 sought by President Quirino to place the armed forces on a war footing.

2) Increase of the armed forces by at least two more regiments, which would bolster the nation's fighting power to 44,000 officers and men.

3) Enlistment of new men from the ages of 18 to 22, who will constitute the new regiments.

Emergency Precautions

HIGH government officials have been invited by President Quirino to discuss with him measures for civilian protection in case of emergency. It was agreed that in the event of an emergency, national machinery for civilian protection would be organized along the lines of the prewar Civilian Emergency Administration with a few changes to suit present-day requirements.

One of the modifications, it was stated, was a plan to develop closer liaison between the civilian agencies and the regional military commands.

Meanwhile, President Quirino has stated that he is still more concerned about the internal Philippine situation than external aggression. Replying to newspapermen at his weekly news conference, Quirino said: "We must avoid fighting among ourselves. I am not worried about the foreign situation as long as we are united."

American Arms Shipment

THE first shipment of arms aid from the US to the armed forces of the Philippines was expected to reach Manila by the middle of the month.

According to a spokesman of the National Defense Department, this was a part of the $16,000,000 assistance earmarked for the Philippines, Korea and the "general area of China." The materials included armored units, jeeps, artillery pieces and small arms.

While arms were going to the Philippines, Paul McNutt, former High Commissioner of the Philippines, told President Truman in Washington that the islands' government needs more money from America.

Following a visit to the White House, McNutt said that economic difficulties are largely responsible for the Manila government's troubles with Communist-led guerillas. Asked if he had recommended more US aid, he said he just gave Truman the "facts" and the fact is "they need help."

It was also learned that the much delayed US economic mission to the Philippines has been decided. Candidate to head the mission was reported to be a prominent mid-west banker.

THE WEST

Strikes in Britain

THREE of the nation's vital industries were threatened by strikes —food distribution, rail transport and coal mining.

In an effort to break a strike of slaughterhouse workers 2,000 troops were drafted into London's central meat market. Nearly 3,000 men who help keep Londoners supplied with food stopped work in protest over the use of troops to deliver meat.

In Scotland, a strike in protest against the refusal of the state-run coal industry to grant 400,000 lower-paid workers a raise swept through the collieries. More than 10,000 miners stopped work.

A strike of 200 railway men at Banbury, 70 miles from London, in opposition to changes in their pensions scheme was threatened. The Banbury men called on drivers and firemen throughout the railways' western region to join the strike every week-end until their pensions claim is conceded.

Meanwhile, Britain's 500,000-strong National Union of Mineworkers has called for the abolition of a government order which requires a 21 day notice to be given before a strike can be legal. The union's general-secretary said: "This order makes all voluntary negotiations just a farce and as long as it continues, the employers will take advantage of it."

Island Annexation

A WASHINGTON report claims that annexation of the Marianas islands of Rota, Saipan and Tinian by Guam is a strong possibility. The island of Guam is now administered by the US under UN trusteeship.

According to the same Washington story, "There seems little likelihood the residents of the three islands will not, at some time, seek the annexation." This was said to have been made evident to a committee of members of the US House of Representatives last November. However, although these islands are still UN trustee territories, there has been no mention made of the UN in all the Washington talk of annexation.

US Weapons to Europe

THE US reportedly is shipping some of its best anti-tank weapons to its West European allies. Defense officials in Washington have stated the weapons—bound mostly for France under the arms aid program — include bazookas, rocket launchers and powerful recoilless rifles still in the secret stage.

Senator Lodge, Republican member from Massachusetts and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters the Administration's request for $1,222,500,000 for a second year of rearming US friends abroad, "is the most practical step toward world peace we can take at present."

Full Text of Agrarian Reform Law

On June 30 Chairman Mao Tse-tung signed the order promulgating the Agrarian Reform Law of the People's Republic of China. The order reads:

The draft Agrarian Law of the People's Republic of China, which was submitted to the second session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, has been passed at the 8th meeting of the Central People's Government Council and is effective as from June 30, the day of its promulgation.

I. General Principles

ARTICLE 1.

The land ownership system of feudal exploitation by the landlord class shall be abolished, and the system of peasant land ownership shall be carried into effect in order to set free the rural productive forces, develop agricultural production and pave the way for the industrialization of the new China.

II. Confiscating and requisitioning of land

ARTICLE 2.

The land, draft animals, farm implements and surplus grain of the landlords, and their surplus houses in the countryside, shall be confiscated, but their other properties shall not be confiscated.

ARTICLE 3.

The rural land belonging to ancestral shrines, temples, monasteries, churches, schools, institutions and other public land shall be requisitioned, but appropriate measures should be worked out by the local people's government to solve the financial problems of such schools, orphanages, homes for the aged, hospitals, etc. as are dependent upon income from the above land. Land owned by Mosques may be retained by them subject to the consent of the Moslems residing in the area.

ARTICLE 4.

Industry and commerce shall be protected from infringement.

Industrial and commercial enterprises run by landlords and the land and other properties used directly by landlords for the operation of industrial and commercial enterprises shall not be confiscated. In the process of confiscating feudal land and other properties, no infringement upon industry and commerce is permitted.

Land and peasant dwellings in the countryside which are owned by industrialists and merchants shall be requisitioned, but their other rural properties and lawful enterprises shall not be infringed on.

ARTICLE 5.

Revolutionary armymen, dependents of martyrs, workers, employees, professional people, peddlers, and others who engage in non-agrarian occupations or lack labor power shall not be classified as landlords if they rent out small portions of land. If the average per capita landholding of such families does not exceed 200 percent of the average per capita landholding in the locality, it shall remain untouched. (For instance, if the average per capita landholding in the locality is two mow and the average per capita landholdings of such family members does not exceed four mow). If it exceeds this proportion, the surplus land may be requisitioned. If the land proves to have been purchased with the earnings of the owners' own labor or if old persons living alone, orphans or invalids, depend on this land for their livelihood, allowance may be made for such persons according to their individual cases even though their average per capita landholding may exceed 200 percent.

ARTICLE 6.

Land owned by rich peasants and cultivated by them or by hired labor, and their other properties, shall not be infringed upon.

Small portions of land rented out by rich peasants shall also be retained by them. But in certain special areas, part or all of the land rented out by rich peasants may be requisitioned with the approval of the people's governments at provincial or higher levels.

If the portions of land rented out by rich peasants of a semi-landlord type exceed in size the land worked by them or hired laborers, the land rented out should be requisitioned.

When rich peasants rent out land and are also tenants of land, these should be balanced against each other in computing their land holdings.

ARTICLE 7.

Land and other properties of middle peasants (including well-to-do middle peasants) shall not be infringed upon.

ARTICLE 8.

Transfer or dispersal after liberation, by sale, mortgage, gift or any other means, of any land which according to this law should be confiscated or requisitioned is null and void. Such land should be included in the distributed land. But if the peasants who bought or took mortgages on the land will thereby suffer any considerable losses, measures should be worked out to recompense them suitably.

ARTICLE 9.

The legal definition of landlords, rich peasants, middle peasants, poor peasants, farm laborers and other component classes of rural society will be dealt with elsewhere.

III. Distribution of land

ARTICLE 10.

All confiscated or requisitioned land and other means of production, with the exception of those to be nationalized as provided by this law, shall be taken over by the hsiang peasant associations for distribution in a unified, equitable and rational manner to poor peasants with little or no land and to those who lack other means of production. Landlords shall be given an equal share so that they can rely on their own labor for their living and can reform themselves through labor.

(Footnote: A hsiang is an administrative unit embracing several villages).

ARTICLE 11.

The unit for distributing land shall be the hsiang or administrative village corresponding to a hsiang and within this unit it will be distributed in a unified manner according to population. The method will be that of readjusting landholdings, having regard to quantity, quality and convenience of location, while observing the principle of allotting the land to the peasant tilling it. However, chu (sub-district below country level-Editor) or county peasant associations may make certain necessary adjustments between various hsiang or administrative villages corresponding to a hsiang. In areas of extensive territory and sparse population, for convenience in cultivation, units for land distribution may be smaller and below the level of the hsiang. The land lying across the boundary of two hsiangs shall be allocated for distribution to the hsiang where the tiller resides.

ARTICLE 12.

Under the principle of allotting land to the tiller, land owned by the tiller shall not be drawn upon for distribution during land distribution. When rented land is drawn upon for distribution, proper regard should be given to the tiller. The land he acquires through land distribution plus his own landholding (if he has land) shall be slightly and suitably more than the landholding, after distribution, of the peasants who had little or no land. This is in line which the principle that the tiller should retain the approximate average per capita landholding in the locality.

If the tiller possesses the surface rights of the land he rents, a portion of land equivalent to the price of the surface rights in that locality shall be reserved for him if his present land is drawn upon.

ARTICLE 13.

During land distribution, certain special problems of the landless and land-poor population shall be settled as follows:

(A) Poor peasants who can work but have no, or only one, family dependent may be given more land than the allotment for one or two persons, if land conditions in the hsiang permit.

(B) Rural handicraftsmen, peddlers, professional people and their dependents should be given a partial share of land and other means of production according to their individual cases. But if their earnings from these occupations are sufficient to maintain their dependents constantly, land need not be allotted to them.

(C) If their homes are in the countryside, martyrs' families (the martyr himself can be counted as a family member), commanders, fighters, honorably discharged and demobilized servicemen of the People's Liberation Army, functionaries of the people's government and people's organizations as well as their families shall be given shares of land and other means of production equal to those of the peasants. But with regard to the functionaries of the people's government and people's organizations, less land or none may be allotted in proportion to the amount of their salaries and other income, and the degree to which they are able to maintain their dependents.

(D) If local persons take up a profession in another place, their dependents still living in the village should be given land and other means of production according to their individual cases. But if the income from their profession is adequate to maintain their dependents constantly, land need not be allotted to them.

(E) Monks, nuns, priests and other religious personnel should be given shares of land and other means of production equal to those of the peasants if they have no other means of livelihood and are able and willing to engage in agricultural work.

(F) Unemployed workers and their dependents who return to the countryside, with certificates from the municipal government or trade union, should be given shares of land and other means of production equal to those of the peasants if they ask for land and are able to engage in agricultural work and if local land conditions permit.

(G) Landlords who return after running away and persons who once worked for the enemy but returned to the countryside, and the families of such persons, should be given shares of land and other means of production equal to those of the peasants if they are willing to earn a living by agricultural work.

(H) Land shall not be given to those whose homes are in the countryside and whom the people's government has ascertained to be collaborators, traitors, war criminals, counter-revolutionaries who have committed extremely grave crimes, or criminals who have persistently sabotaged agrarian reform. Members of their families who have not participated in their criminal acts, should be given the same share of land and other means of production as peasants, if they have no other occupation by which to live, and are able and willing to take up agricultural work.

ARTICLE 14.

During land distribution, on the basis of the hsiang, in accordance with local land conditions, small portions of land may be reserved for use on the return of families who have gone away or who have fled but whose conditions are not yet clearly known, or for use in adjusting land in the locality. For the time being, such land shall be under the control of the hsiang people's government and be rented to the peasants for cultivation. However, the land thus reserved must at most not exceed one percent of all land in the hsiang.

ARTICLE 15.

During land distribution, the people's government of county level or above may, in accordance with the local land situation, set aside part of the land to be nationalized and used for agricultural experiments or as state model farms for one county or more. Such land may be rented to peasants for cultivation until the farms are established.

IV. Treatment of special land problems

ARTICLE 16.

Confiscated and requisitioned woods, fish ponds, tea groves, tung oil plantations, mulberry fields, bamboo woods, orchards, reed lands, wasteland and other distributed land should be evaluated in terms of ordinary land on the basis of an appropriate ratio and distributed in a unified way. In the interests of production, these tracts of land should first as far as possible be allotted to the peasants who have hitherto utilized them. Persons receiving this kind of land may be given little or no ordinary arable land. If this kind of distribution is detrimental to production, the land may be operated by the local people's government properly and under democratic management while observing established customs.

ARTICLE 17.

Confiscated and requisitioned irrigation works, such as dams and ponds, should be distributed together with the fields if they are distributable. If it is not convenient to distribute them, they should be democratically managed by the local people's government in conformity with established customs.

ARTICLE 18.

All great forests, large water conservancy works, large expanses of wasteland, large uncultivated hillsides, big salt fields and mines as well as lakes, marshes, rivers and ports, must all be nationalized and be managed and operated by the people's government. Those in which private capital has been invested and which have so far been privately managed shall continue to be operated by the former management, according to the decrees promulgated by the people's government.

ARTICLE 19.

The farms, seedling nurseries and agricultural experimental areas that are cultivated with machinery or other advanced equipment and the large bamboo groves, large orchards, large tea groves, tung oil plantations, large mulberry fields and large pastures—where technique is essential—shall continue under their former management, and should not be dispersed. But if such land is owned by landlords, it may be nationalized with the approval of the people's government at the provincial level or above.

ARTICLE 20.

All graveyards and woods surrounding the graves must remain intact during the confiscation and requisitioning of land.

ARTICLE 21.

Scenic spots and places or historical relics should be carefully preserved. Ancestral shrines, temples, monasteries, churches and other public buildings and landlords' houses should not be damaged. Surplus houses of landlords in the countryside, which are not suitable for the use of peasants, may come under the management of the local people's government and be used for public purposes.

ARTICLE 22.

Wasteland reclaimed after liberation should not be confiscated during land distribution and should continue to be tilled by the reclaimer. It should not be included in the amount of land to be distributed to him.

ARTICLE 23.

Small plots of land necessary for maintaining bridges in repair, for highway upkeep, resting points, free ferries and such public facilities, may be reserved according to established custom and not distributed.

ARTICLE 24.

Land and houses owned by overseas Chinese should be handled in accordance with appropriate measures determined by the people's governments (or military administrative committees) of the various big administrative areas or by provincial governments on the principle of having regard for the interests of overseas Chinese and in keeping with the general principles of this law.

ARTICLE 25.

Sandy and shoaly land owned by landlords or public bodies should be nationalized and handled in accordance with appropriate measures determined by the people's governments at provincial level or above.

ARTICLE 26.

Land bordering railways, highways and river dykes that is needed for their protection or land occupied by airfields, harbors and fortifications should not be distributed. The sites of projected railways, highways waterways and airfields, whose date of construction has been fixed, shall be reserved with the approval of the people's government at provincial level or above.

ARTICLE 27.

Private persons managing land owned by the state may not rent it out, sell it or leave it untended. If the private operators no longer need the land, it must be returned to the state.

V. Organizations and methods for carrying out agrarian reform

ARTICLE 28.

In order to strengthen the leadership of the people's governments in the work of agrarian reform, the people's governments at county level or above should, at the time of agrarian reform, organize agrarian reform committees composed of persons elected or nominated by people's representative councils or persons appointed by the people's governments of a higher level. These committees are responsible for directing and handling all matters concerning agrarian reform.

ARTICLE 29.

Village peasant meetings, peasant representative conferences and committees of peasant associations elected at such conferences, the peasant congresses at chu, county and provincial levels, and committees of peasant associations elected at such congresses, are the legal organizations for reforming the agrarian system.

ARTICLE 30.

After agrarian reform is completed, the people's government shall issue title deeds and shall recognize the right of all landowners to manage, buy, sell or rent out land freely. All land contracts made before the reform of the agrarian system shall be null and void.

ARTICLE 31.

The determination of class status shall be carried out according to the decisions on class differentiation in the countryside issued by the Central People's Government. It shall be determined by democratic estimation and decision at the village peasant meetings and peasant representative conferences under the leadership of the village people's governments, by the method of self-assessment and public discussion. If any person concerned is not a member of a peasant association, he should, nevertheless, be invited to participate in the estimation and decision at the meetings and be allowed to argue his case.

The estimation and decision must be reported to the chu people's government for ratification. Where any person concerned, or any other person, does not agree with the result, an appeal may be lodged with the county people's court, which shall pass judgment and carry it into effect.

ARTICLE 32.

A people's court shall be set up in every county in the course of agrarian reform to ensure that it is carried out. The court shall travel to different places, and try and punish, according to the law, hated despotic elements who have committed very serious crimes, whom the masses of the people demand shall be brought to justice, and all such persons who resist or violate the provisions of the agrarian reform law and decrees. Indiscriminate arrest, beating or killing of people, corporal punishment or the like is strictly forbidden.

The organizational regulations of the people's court will be elaborated separately.

ARTICLE 33.

To maintain order during agrarian reform and to protect the people's wealth, it is strictly prohibited to slaughter draft animals or fell trees without authorization, let land lie untended, destroy farm implements, irrigation works, buildings, crops or the like. Offenders shall be tried and punished by the people's court.

ARTICLE 34.

To ensure that all agrarian reform measures conform to the interest and wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people, people's governments at all levels shall be responsible for fully safeguarding the democratic rights of the people and the rights of the peasants and their representatives to criticize freely and bring charges against working personnel of any sphere or level at all meetings. Anyone who infringes on these rights shall be punished according to law.

VI. Appendix

ARTICLE 35.

This law shall apply to the rural areas in general, but not to the areas in the vicinity of big cities for which agrarian reform regulations will be formulated separately. The big cities referred to in this Article shall be determined by the people's governments of the big administrative areas (or their military and administrative committees) according to the circumstances of the cities.

ARTICLE 36.

This law shall not apply to areas of minority nationalities. But in areas where the Han nationality is in the majority, scattered inhabitants of minority nationalities shall be treated in the same way under this law as the people of Han nationality in carrying out the agrarian reform in those localities.

ARTICLE 37.

This law shall not apply to areas where agrarian reform has in the main been completed.

ARTICLE 38.

All areas which begin agrarian reform after the promulgation of this law, with the exception of the areas referred to in Article 35, 36 and 37 of this law, shall proceed in accordance with this law. The time for starting agrarian reform in various places will be regulated by decree and made public by the people's governments of the big administrative areas (or their military and administrative committees) and provincial people's governments.

ARTICLE 39.

When this law is made public, each provincial people's government shall formulate regulations for carrying out agrarian reform within its territory in accordance with the principles laid down in this law and the concrete conditions of the territory and shall submit them to the people's government of the big administrative areas (or their military and administrative committees) and on ratification they shall be put into effect. They shall also be submitted to the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government to be put on record.

ARTICLE 40.

This law shall come into force after it is ratified and made public by the Central People's Government Council.

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 109)

polite and facts thoroughly verified. Then to the party concerned it is a help, while to others a self-reminder. Without all these, the task could not be well accomplished and might bring recantation. On the other hand, it is equally important that, when mentioning one's own weak points, true facts must be given without any reservations and in a humble enough way to induce sympathetic advice.

Either using them singly or together, criticism and self-criticism are indisputably worthwhile in the fight against evils responsible for bringing about lines of deviation. They demand mutual assistance. The former may demonstrate the spirit of the united front; the latter may do away with all malignant conceptions. Again, demonstration of change of thinking alone is not sufficient; it must go hand in hand with action and theory in a substantial and practical manner. Thought without action or theory is superficial, and action or theory without thought is aimless. One is related to the other and such a combination will render a weapon more sharp and effective. It is with such weapons that Communists are capable of winning the confidence of the population and accomplishing the task of liberating all China.

HU YUNG HWA

Shanghai
June 28, 1950

MIN-TEH SCHOOL

To the Editor:

Our school is of both historic interest and revolutionary significance. It was founded in the latter part of the Ching Dynasty and has been in continued existence for 47 years. The founder was one of the famous revolutionists, who, at that time, witnessing the corruption and inefficiency of the Manchu government and the oppression and aggression of the external imperialists, went through thick and thin to advocate an anti-feudal and anti-imperialist revolution.

In pre-war times, it was by dint of the inexhaustible energy of the principal, the founder, together with his colleagues that the school was made prosperous and near to its perfection both in management and equipment so that it has become one of the noteworthy schools in China.

But to the sorrow and grief of everybody, everything done with care and toil was destroyed and devastated by the Japanese bombs and incendiary fire before and after their occupation of Changsha.

However, the school has been rehabilitated, though not to its former appearance yet to such a degree that it can now still accomodate one thousand students more or less. The campus is enclosed within a wall lined with trees. In the center of the vast open playground, a great main building called Lo-Chen-Tang rears its mighty heights of four stories. It is the only building left out of the ruins.

A rather large clean pond in front of the main building looks like a mirror reflecting in it the surrounding objects. Around it is a tract of land for long lying waste after being devastated in the war, but now, after being improved and cultivated by the whole school body, it has been converted into several plots for vegetable gardens. All the people here, both the students and teachers, not to say the workers, engage in labor and production with great zeal.

The total enrollment of students this term is more than 860. The faculty consists of nearly 50 persons. At the end of last term, most of the teachers joined the Winter Learning Conference for Middle School Teachers specially to receive a course on revolutionary theory. Thus they have in this semester brought back fresh inspiration and new methods for conducting the school both in administration and in teaching.

After the liberation of Changsha, a new phenomenon came about and a lively atmosphere has pervaded the school. In each class, the students form themselves into several small groups guided by a class director. Every week two regular meetings are held for discussion about what they have learned politically or culturally, and for criticism of their attitude toward private and collective life, and the state of their studies.

The students can be found spontaneously and ardently participating in all kinds of extra-curricular activities, both cultural and recreational, besides their regular classroom work. Self-taught and collective-study are practiced, replacing the method of mere lecturing by the teachers.

If some one pays a visit to the reading-room, he will be struck with wonder to find students crowding the room but silently and intently perusing the reference materials; but if one goes to the classrooms, students can be seen warmly and excitedly discussing some point.

In a word, the old and out-of-date method is giving way to the new and up-to-date; the scientific and practical is supplanting the inefficient and theoretical. The general atmosphere here, therefore, is one of pleasure, animation, vigour and youthfulness.

BARING NEE

Changsha, Hunan
June 25, 1950

A POWERFUL FILM

To the Editor:

It is wonderful to see how much progress has been made during the past year or so in the quality of Chinese firms. Recently a Northeast film, "Chao I-man," opened in Shanghai at several theatres. The technique, story and acting are all excellent, a great advance over the first Northeast film shown locally, "The Bridge."

Chao I-man was a heroine of the Communist Party. Early in the Japanese occupation of the Northeast, she ran afoul of the occupation troops by leading a strike of the workers in Harbin. Her husband, also a member of the Party, is arrested by the Jap gestapo, but she escapes. A marked woman, she is forced to flee to the rural areas, where she joins the guerillas.

A vigorous leader, she is instrumental in organizing a fierce resistance to the Japs. Trains and bridges are blown sky-high and Jap patrols are eliminated. Despite the Japs' cruel reprisals against the villagers, the latter loyally support their own guerilla forces; they hate the Jap invaders more than they fear the punishment that follows the increasingly successful guerilla activity.

Chao I-man hears that her husband has been killed in jail. It is a terrible blow, but it steels her to strive even harder for the people in their ceaseless battle against the invaders. At length, surrounded in the hills by superior Jap forces, Chao I-man's group faces extinction. A last-minute plan allows the greater part of the men to escape, but Chao I-min is wounded, made prisoner by Japs, and taken to Harbin.

The Japs use the cruelest treatment to make her give them information, but she will not, although she is "questioned" several times. Each time, nearly died, she is brought back to life in a hospital. There, she wins the sympathy of her nurse and a guard, who enable her to escape. However, almost in safety with the guerillas again, she is recaptured, and finally executed.

The film makes a gripping story of a woman's heroism. It is well photographed, suspenseful, and the actors show their skill in the difficult task of successfully portraying peasants. I hope your readers will make every effort to see this fine picture.

JOSEPH MARTINSON

Shanghai
July 10, 1950

The Review's English Lesson CXXXIX

Idioms and Definitions

MR. Sun Tai, of Peking, has sent in some questions regarding a few expressions used in Rewi Alley's article, "Peking Revisited," which appeared in our issue of June 24:

In the air: The original clause was, "change was always in the air." The phrase "in the air" means that change was noticeable, always present, everywhere. The author sensed the prevailing atmosphere of change that underlay the placid exterior of Peking in the old days.

Jesus the Carpenter: Still describing Peking as he remembered it from before the anti-Japanese war, the author said, "the placid followers of Jesus the Carpenter grew old and mellow gently in stately mission compounds. . ." Christians believe that Jesus, who was born in a humble family and became a carpenter like his father Joseph, was really the Son of God, who became a man on earth and by sacrificing himself took on himself the sins of humanity. The author of the article under consideration refers, in this sentence, to the Christian missionaries. His use of the words "placid," "mellow," "gently" and "stately," in connection with the missionaries, and "carpenter" to describe Jesus, suggests the ironical contrast between the easy life of Jesus' followers and Jesus' humble origins and brutal execution for his principles.

A town of longing: This phrase, describing Peking, begins a sentence which concludes, "where a craftsman would put his whole heart and soul into the carving of an elephant's tusks, a jade amulet, a turquoise ring." The "longing" seems to indicate the desire of the wealthy class to possess these exquisite products of artists and handicraftsmen.

Thumbed volumes: Volumes that have been looked over many times, leaving the marks of fingers on the margins of the pages. We also say, "He looked at the well-thumbed pages of the old book."

* * *

THIS week, we use as text a short extract from W. W. Blank's "General Principles of Language:"

> Several years ago a scientist named Garner determined to learn the **"speech"** of monkeys. To this end he shut himself up for months in a cage with several of the creatures, and listened and listened. Finally, he had **to confess himself** beaten. He was unable to discover anything **articulate** in their **utterances.** The **"language"** of the apes is a **fancy** of the author of **Tarzan.**
>
> Yet it is probable that the sounds made by the apes and monkeys actually do communicate something. **Instinctive** communication is widespread in nature. The **lowing** of cattle or the **barking** of a dog warns of **danger.** The **clucking** of a hen gathers her brood around her. The call of a wild bird summons its mate, and hunters use bird-calls to **lure** the poor creatures within reach of the gun.

"Speech:" This is one of the many uses of quotation marks. It indicates that Garner at first thought the monkeys might use speech, but found they did not. A similar use is illustrated further on in the same paragraph, with **"language."** Words so enclosed in quotation marks have another meaning than their usual, ordinary one.

To confess himself: To admit; he admitted that he was.

Articulate: This word is from the Latin *articulatus*, which means divided into joints. As used above, it means uttered with distinctness; spoken in syllables, like human speech.

Utterances: Expressions by the voice; in human speech, something said in words; a memorable or important speech or saying.

Fancy: Imagination.

Tarzan: Famous character created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Tarzan was the son of an English lord. Left in the African jungle when a small infant, he was brought up by the wild animals, lived as they did, and learned their various "languages."

Instinctive: Acting, or prompted by, natural impulse; inborn; innate.

Lowing: The soft call made by cattle, often called "mooing."

Barking: The sharp sound made by dogs.

Clucking: The sound made by many fowl, especially chickens.

Lure: To entice, attract, often with the sense of drawing into danger.